THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

April 7th—13th, 1983
Volume 18, Number 14

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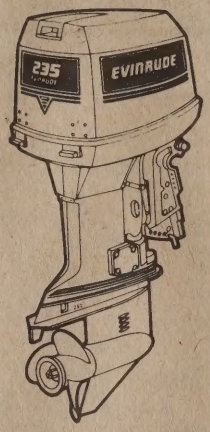

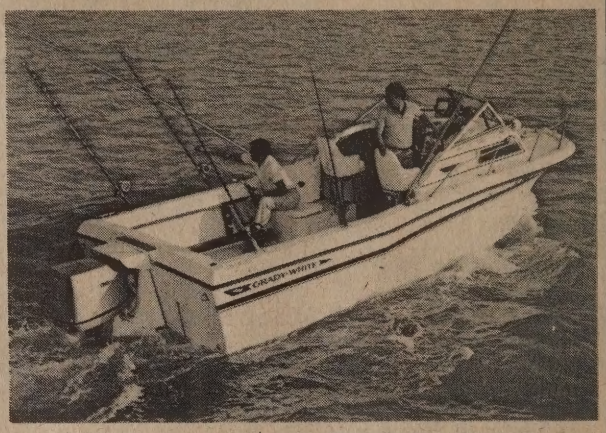

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 18, Number 14 April 7th, 1983

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Trout season opened across the state this past week but here on Long Island, where angling is permitted year round on our tidal streams, much of the hoopla surrounding opening day has disappeared. This trout devotee was "captured" working Bubble's Falls on the Connetquot River prior to the "official" April 1 opening.

Publisher	Richard Reina
Editor	Fred Golofaro
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Pass It On...

SPECIAL PROMOTION NIGHT LINDENHURST BAIT & TACKLE

Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle will be holding a special promotion night on Friday, April 8th from 4PM to 8PM. Representatives from Berkley, Humminbird, Mann's and De-Icing Systems will be on hand to demonstrate and answer any questions about their products. Orders on the Custom Yaps and Dor Knob can also be placed at that time. In addition to the many in-store specials there will be free gifts and prizes given away. Everyone is welcome!

OAKDALE SPORTSMENS CLUB HOLDS AWARDS DINNER

The Oakdale Sportsmen's Club held their Annual Awards Dinner at the South Shore Manor on February 26th. The Captain of the Year Award was given to Ray Schmidt of Oakdale, skipper of the Wide Open. Schmidt's impressive list of victories includes first place in the Bayshore Mako Tournament, first place in the All Clubs Codfish Tournament and second place in the Squadron Anglers Hudson Canyon Tournament.

Larry Oehler of Bohemia was named Fisherman of the Year for his catches of the largest striped bass, blackfish and weakfish of the year.

A great white shark weighing in at 296 lbs. caught by Rich Jeffares of Oakdale won Fish of the Year Honors. Howie Stanfield of Sayville had the largest fish last year, a 580 lb. tiger shark.

In addition to the great white shark, two other new club records were set. Tony DeVito caught 3 lb. 3½ oz. mackerel and Ray Vasquez put away a 311 lb. blue shark.

COAST GUARD STATION ROCKAWAY GETS 95' CUTTER CAPE HORN

The Coast Guard Cutter Cape Horn, stationed at Coast Guard Cutter Cape Horn, stationed at Coast Guard Station Rockaway (WPB-95322) replaced the Coast Guard Cutter Cape Strait (WPB-95308 which completed 30 years of faithful service in the New York area. The Cape Strait was decommissioned on January 21, 1983 at the Coast Guards in Baltimore, Maryland at which time the Cape Horn was recommissioned in formal ceremonies which included representatives from Washington, DC, Governors Island, New York and Coast Guard Yards, Baltimore, Maryland.

The Cape Horn is a 95 foot cutter (Patrol Boat) whose primary missions are long range search and rescue and law enforcement duties. Its crew consists of 13 enlisted personnel and one officer. The Commanding Officer is Lt. Mary Jane Wixsom, graduate of the Coast Guard Academy.

The Cape Horn has just been renovated to add to her versatilities and capabilities in performance of her duties. Before returning to New York, the boat and crew completed shake down training at Little Creek, Virginia. The Cape Horn is now ready to pick up where the Cape Strait left off with courteous and faithful service to the boating public in the New York area.

BABYLON TUNA CLUB 1982 AWARD WINNERS

The Babylon Tuna Club issued the following awards the night of March 5th, at the Narragansett Inn, West Babylon:

True albacore—Steve Pace, Sr., 61.4
False albacore—San Saladino, 14.10
Bluefish—Doc Einar Grell, 19 lbs.
Blackfish—Alfonse Lorenzetti, 8.6
Codfish—Ed Boyar, 39.8
Bonito—Charlie Saladino, 7.15
Flounder—Lou Clementz, 2.8
Fluke—Doc Einar Grell, 5.8
White Marlin—Sam Saladino, 65.8
Mako Shark—Joe Paradiso, Jr., 508
Shark—Jim Parker, 740 lbs.
Striped Bass—Willie Purves, 6.10
Yellowfin Tuna—Art Orlandi, 177 lbs.
Big-eye tuna—Bob Kaich, 262 lbs.
Tuna chummed—Joe Sollano, 285
Weakfish—Steve Pace, 15.10
Pollock—Charlie Fischett, 31.8

FISHING FORECAST ON BROOKHAVEN CABLE

Tune in to "Fishing Forecast" with Lorry Mangan every Friday night, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., rebroadcast again Saturday at 5 p.m., Brookhaven Cable TV, Channel 6. Get the most up-to-date fishing report available in Suffolk County! Each week's program will also include a special guest who will discuss various aspects of fishing, boating and water safety of seasonal interest to Long Island fishermen.

SQUADRON ANGLERS HUDSON CANYON INVITATIONAL BILLFISH & TUNA TOURNEY

The Squadron Anglers meets the third Monday of each month at Sea Crest Restaurant, Sunrise Highway, Massapequa. The club is open to and looking for new members. A phone call to Bill Fischer, Membership Chairman at 826-4998 will get you started!

The Squadron Anglers will sponsor the Fourth Hudson Canyon Invitational Billfish and Tuna Tournament this coming August, to demonstrate the fine quality of fishing Long Island's offshore waters.

Recently, Jack Casey of NMFS notified the Squadron Anglers that a blue shark tagged on the "Dolphin K" during the 1977 Bay Shore Mako Tournament was recaptured off Mexico after being at large for over five years.

The Squadron Anglers also participate in inshore and bay fishing tournaments and intra-club contests.

If you should have any questions,

When your reputation's on the line, better fish Stren®.

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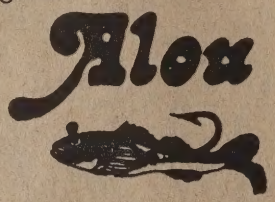

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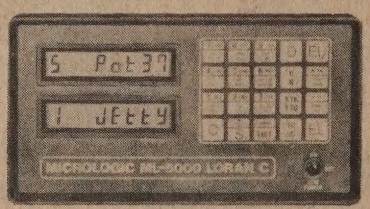

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please contact Skip Schaffer, at (516) 561-8811.

LIBBA MEETING ON APRIL 14TH

There will be a L.I.B.B.A. Board of Directors open meeting at Christophers Tavern, Montauk Hwy., Patchogue on April 14th at 8PM. This is a great time to meet your new officers and directors.

LIBBA's membership drive is still running. Join now and pay only $13.50 for the year's dues. For more information, call 541-2307.

GREAT GUN ANGLERS SHARK TOURNEY

The Great Gun Anglers would like to inform readers of our Seventh Annual Shark Tournament being held July 9, 1963 with a rain date of July 10, 1983. A percentage purse for the largest shark will be divided between 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. A $100 entry fee is required per boa and any individual may enter. For an informational brochure, write: Great Gun Anglers Inc., Box 39, East Moriches, N.Y. 11940, or call B&B Tackle, (516) 878-9280 or Mr. Paul Schwack, President of Great Gun Anglers, at (516) 878-0833.

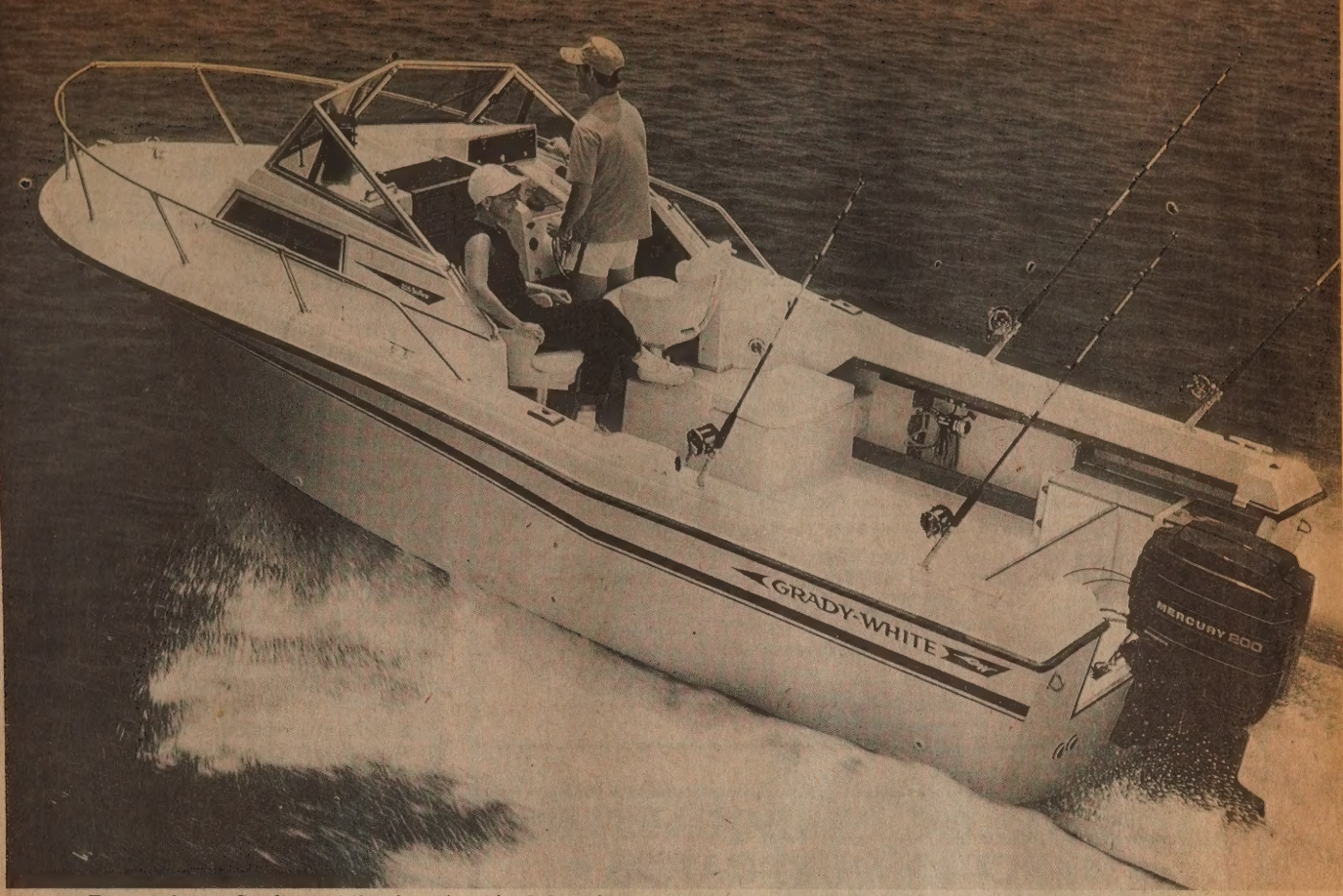
HUDSON ANGLERS SHARK TOURNAMENT

The Hudson Anglers Tournament is a non-profit sporting event designed to: encourage and promote rod and reel angling, good sportsmanship and fair competition, aid marine science by providing specimens for research and laboratory study and to catch only a limited number of fish and to tag and release the remainder. It is open to all clubs and individuals, both male and female. All entrants must be registered with the Hudson Anglers at Hudson Point Fishing Station headquarters. The entry fee of $75 per boat includes $45 to be returned as prize money and $30 to be used to defray expenses of printing, mailing, signs plus (2 portions bait or chum).

Captains' meeting June 17, 1983,

Tournament date is June 18, with rain date June 19, 1983. Captains' meeting is June 17, 1983, 7:30PM at Town of Hempstead Marina, Freeport, N.Y. (Guy Lombardo). Captain or at least one crew member must attend. Contest is limited to any species of shark; no other fish will be considered. The three heaviest sharks, regardless of species, will be declared winners. All decisions of the judges will be final. Weigh-in is by 6:30PM at Town of Hempstead Long Creek Marina (Guy Lombardo Marina), foot of Hudson Channel, Freeport, N.Y.

Prize Money: 1st prize 60%; 2nd prize 25%, 3rd prize, 15%. Additional prizes will be given according to weight. Ask for free dockage information by phone. For further information, rules, applications, call Ronnie Bauer at Hudson Pt., 516-623-9808 or 516-378-1557.



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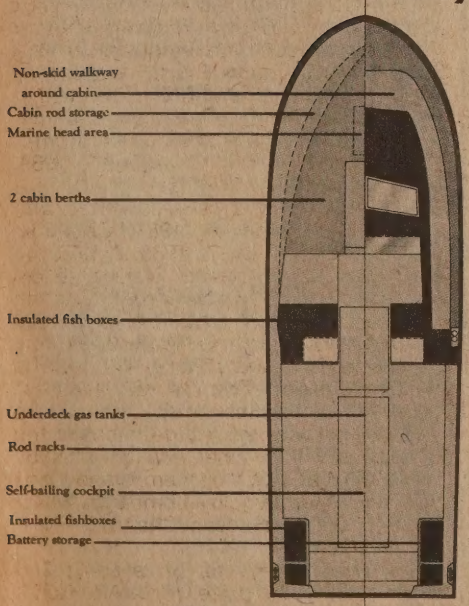

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CHUM LINES

ATLANTIC PROFESSIONAL BOATMANS ASSOC. EXPRESS LICENSING VIEWS TO GOVERNOR

Governor Mario Cuomo
Albany State Building, Albany, NY

Dear Governor Cuomo: Our organization, the Atlantic Professional Boatmans Association, Inc., L.I. Chapter, is a group of party/charter boat owners and captains. We derive our livelihood directly from the recreational angler. To impose a license fee (a thinly disguised tax) is discriminatory and would further distress an already depressed industry.

The State has been advertising New York as a tourist attraction. What have we on Long Island to offer—fishing! It does not make sense to try to build a tourist industry with one hand and restrict it with the other. We, the party/charter boat business, do our best to help promote fishing in New York. Our group helps generate revenues in such related areas as restaurants, motels, tackle shops, gas stations and gift shops. A saltwater license would indirectly affect these industries. The fact that no other state on the East Coast has a license would be a further deterrent to the tourist industry.

We have no reason to believe the monies generated by such a license would be used in the marine district, but rather that they would go into the general fund. The revenues collected as a result of the Dingell/Johnson Act have not filtered down to the saltwater marine community in New York State.

To be realistic, Governor, it sounded like a good idea, but if you check all the ramifications, you'll find it is not. We are vehemently against any saltwater license at this time. Respectfully, *Robert Bozek for the A.P.B.A., Rockville Centre, New York 11570.*

STILL CONFUSED ON THE QUALITY OF HUDSON FISH?

In November I sent you a letter of thanks for answering me in the Chum Lines. But I asked you two more questions about #1 which has me confused from reading the newspapers. They say the Hudson River is polluted; not to eat the fish from there. Then again, I read about the striped bass migrating up the Hudson to spawn. What happens when they are all through and come back down to go out to sea—aren't these fish polluted. #2, then I have read that Con Edison was going to build a fish hatchery and release some 3,000 fish in the Hudson. If the Hudson is polluted, why release fish there? Aren't these fish polluted when they go out to sea and how does the fisher-

man know? Please give me an answer to my two questions. Just a confused woman fisher lady. Yours in Sports, *Mrs. Margaret P. Novak, New York.*

The answer to your questions is yes and no. You see, there are some fish in the Hudson that you might want to avoid eating because they have been found to accumulate PCBs. Eels, white perch, and striped bass head the list. It also wouldn't be wise to eat shellfish from the Hudson River. However, bass that spend only a short time in the river may have very low levels of PCBs and thus be safe to eat. It is also uncertain at this time whether PCB contamination affects the success of spawning. Fish in the Hudson will often have an oily taste because of diesel oil, gasoline, etc., plus sewage pollution. However, once the bass descend the river and spend a week or two in clean water that taste disappears. Yes, some of the hatchery reared bass will be tainted with pollution. So far, measurements of toxic chemical pollution show a very irregular pattern of contamination. We don't understand why all fish are not affected equally. Heavily contaminated bass may die or may not be able to spawn successfully. However, many of the young bass released will have only small contamination. These fish, if they survive predation and disease in the ocean will successfully spawn in the years ahead. The idea behind the hatchery is to supplement natural productivity that has been diminished by Con Edison's power plant cooling process and toxic contamination. Dr. W.A. Muller.

FISHING NYC RESERVOIRS

I've been trying to run down some information about the fishability of the New York City reservoirs in upper Westchester County and am writing to inquire whether The Fisherman has ever published an article on the subject. If so, I'd be happy to send along some money for a back issue or photocopy of the article. If not, can you suggest a possible source of information?

Thanks much for your help. *Daniel Henninger.*

It is actually very easy to secure a permit to fish the New York City reservoirs. You'll need a valid New York State freshwater fishing license. Then get two black and white, 2"x2" photographs of yourself (head and shoulder shot). The reservoir permit is free and can be obtained in either of three places: 1—The New York City Municipal Building in Manhattan, Department of Water Resources; 2—Dept. Water Resources Bldg., Belden Rd. at Carmel, N.Y., and 3—at Valhalla, N.Y. near the dam. As an added bonus, once you obtain the permit, it's good until revoked. It is important to read and understand fully the rules and regulations that govern your fishing on the reservoirs. In that way you will not be vulnerable to revocation due to violation of these rules and regulations. Dr. W.A. Muller.

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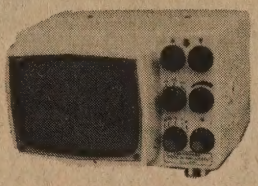

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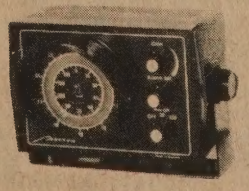

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METRO FLOUNDER

by Sal Terranova

Staring dreamily into space from my perch 20 feet above the waters of Jamaica Bay, I was enraptured by the sight of the last rays of the rapidly descending sun bouncing off of the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center. In the shimmering light, the Towers appeared to be two massive mirrors or beacons, designed by some alien force to help extraterrestrial spacecraft find their way to earth. Although they were over 10 miles distant from where I stood on the North Channel Bridge, a span that connects the northern end of Broad Channel Island with Queens, the Towers were easily discernable in the brisk April sunset. Returning to reality, I checked my lines, glanced at the half-dozen flounder in my bucket, and with nightfall and its ensuing chill fast approaching, decided to call it a day.

Counting the throwbacks, I had managed 10 flounder in about four hours, certainly not a great amount, but enough for my family to enjoy fresh flounder fillets for dinner later that evening. The entire outing only cost me about five bucks for a dozen sandworms and a bag of bank mussels. A trip aboard a party boat or rental skiff would have cost far more, though the results would have probably been much better, though not necessarily so. At least I did not have to rise before dawn to catch a boat. Don't misunderstand me; I love party boat fishing, but after putting in five days on the job, having to get up early on your day off can be too much to bear on occasion. Flounder fishing from pier or bank can be a relaxing and inexpensive way to while away a lazy spring afternoon, and can also be productive as far as putting fish in your bucket.

I use two outfits for shoreside flounder fishing from dock or bulkhead. I employ a 6½ foot, light, freshwater spinning rod with a matching reel, such as the Shakespeare 2400, which, unfortunately, is no longer available. However, any comparable reel will do: a Daiwa Silver 1000 or 1500 is fine, as is the Penn 714Z. The reel should be loaded with six or eight pound test. This type of rod and reel combo will permit you to get the most sport out of these scrappy, but small, flounder. If I am going to fish from a beach where a long cast may be desirable, or a pier or bridge situated high above the water where you may have to hoist up a fish or two plus lead, 20 feet or so to the rail, you will need a somewhat heavier outfit. To handle such a situation, I use a 7½ foot light-medium action spinning rod (a jetty-type stick is fine) with a medium-weight spinning reel holding 10 or 12 lb. test line. A reel such as the Shakespeare 2410, Garcia 300, Penn 710, or any similar capacity reel are fine.

Terminal tackle needed is minimal. A sinker and two flounder hooks make up your rig. In most areas, you will probably use bank sinkers from one to three ounces since inshore tides are not that strong, though there may be exceptions. The long-shanked Chestertown flounder hook in sizes 8, 9 or 10 is the standard hook used by most anglers, but some, including myself, favor the shorter-shanked #6 Sproat, which has better fish-hooking qualities but is more of a nuisance to remove from a deeply-hooked flounder. The most popular rig is the

tandem rig, where the snell of one hook is passed through a double overhand knot tied in the middle of the other hook's snell. Then the first hook is pushed through its own loop and tightened, and then the overhand knot on the snell of the other hook is tightened. Voila! Attach the two hooks to your main line by passing them through a dropper loop on the main line, and then tighten. Attach your sinker about three inches below the connection by means of an end loop. I hope I have not confused you; the rig is pretty simple to tie in actuality, but it always winds up sounding like the formula for nitroglycerine when described in print. The second rig commonly used is a variation of the surfman's fishfinder rig. Attach an egg or dipsey sinker to your main line, secure a barrel swivel to the end of the line and then attach two hooks, tied in tandem, to the swivel. The swivel will serve as a stop-gap for the free-running sinker. This set-up will allow a wary flounder to pick up the bait without feeling much resistance, and will help you detect the soft bites that seem to be a trait of spring flounder. I use this rig when fishing from a beach, where longer casts make it that much harder to feel a bite. While I employ the tandem rig primarily when fishing from a pier.

I am sure you are all familiar with the more popular baits, but let's run through them anyway. Sandworms, bloodworms, fresh bank mussels and skimmer clams are all eaten with relish by the flatties. I favor sandworms in my area, but make it a point to bring along either mussels or clams in order to give the flounder a little variety. Although all the above baits are fine, flounder will often show a marked preference for one type of bait over others on certain days. Why this is so, I cannot say for certain. There are many possible factors for this, but rather than get into a lengthy discussion, let's leave it at that, and don't forget to offer the fish a varied menu!

Tides are a key factor when angling for flounder from shore, more so than when fishing aboard a boat. Generally, action is best during the last two hours of the flood and the first two hours of the ebb. Other tidal stages are often a total waste of time, though there are exceptions. Stick to the "top of the tide" and you can't go wrong. Well, most of the time at least! Obviously, a sunny and balmy early spring day with little wind is likely to make the flatties more active, whereas a cold day with stiff winds will see our tasty little friends remaining relatively inactive, looking for a warm hole in the mud somewhere.

Shore side angling for flounder is mostly old-fashioned still fishing, but it pays to employ variations at times. Some anglers use the dead stick method. However, you will detect more bites and hook more fish on a hand-held rod. Flounder do not hit a bait with a wallop like, say a bluefish. Instead, they tend to take the hook rather softly; thus, you will probably not notice many strikes on a dead-stick unless you are paying extremely close attention. I use the dead-stick method when fishing off the beach. However, I pick up the rod every couple of minutes to check for action. This works, but don't leave the rod unattended in a sand spike for 20 minutes while you have coffee if you expect to catch many flounder. It also pays to reel in a few feet of line every couple of minutes or so, and let your rig sit there for a bit.

When fishing off a pier, a hand held rod is the way to go. You will detect more bites, and you can also engage in bottom bouncing. Bottom bouncing is a practice favored by flounder fishermen everywhere, whereby your rig is "bounced" off the bottom every half a minute or so. The motion of the bait, combined with the sinker's thud that dislodges bottom particles and bits of clam spat and other founder goodies, serves to attract the fish. If you own a chum pot, bring it along and use it when possible. I chum whenever the locale fished permits me to do so (kind of hard to use a chum pot from a beach!) and it definitely helps.

I do most of my shore-side flounder fishing in Brooklyn, Queens, or Staten Island, so I'll pass along a list of the spots that usually produce for me in those areas. Starting with Staten Island, the Great Kills jetty is worth a shot, as are the bulkheads and piers inside Great Kills Harbor. The Stapleton Piers near the Verrazano Bridge are a little more iffy, but they are very good sometimes, and offer the added bonus of tommycod. Over in Brooklyn, the 69th St. (Bay Ridge Avenue) Pier in Bay Ridge may occasionally see decent action, but tends to be slow. Ditto for the Brooklyn shore line from the pier to the Caesar's Bay complex. Canarsie Pier can be good, but tends to be crowded on weekends. Going over to Queens, the North Channel Bridge that connects Queens with Broad Channel Island, probably offers the best angling to be had from any structure in the area, and is one of my choice spots. Sandworm bait and fishing around the top of the tide should get you some decent fish here. The South Channel Bridge is productive, but unfortunately is so high off the water that fishing it becomes a nuisance. Last, but certainly not least, is the Magnolia Boulevard Pier, which is not located within the confines of New York City, but rather near Long Beach in Nassau County. Nonetheless, it is only about a 20 minute drive from Queens and well worth the effort. The pier projects into Reynolds Channel. Get there early, as this pier is a popular spot and gets crowded fast. You can expect quality fish here. If you need directions to get to any of these spots, give a local tackle shop a call. Besides directions, they will gladly update you on the action upon request.

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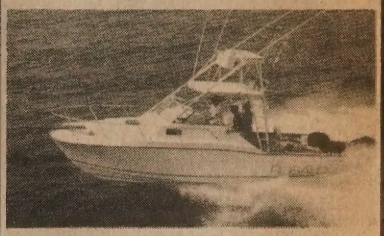

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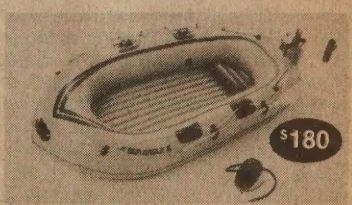

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THE "LEDGE"

by Capt. John DeMaio

Known simply as the "Ledge," Southwest Ledge plays host to a variety of species but is best known for its spring run of cod and pollock

Separating an experienced local fisherman (in a given area) from the novice, can usually be accomplished with a brief conversation. For instance, someone referring to Block Island, as "Block," is a dead giveaway to the man's inexperience. Montauk regulars refer to Block Island as the "Island." All the other surrounding islands are called by their correct title—as in Gardiner's Island, Plum Island, etc. Fishermen, as do all Americans, tend to shorten names. And so it is with the Southwest Ledge. It is simply called the "Ledge."

A boat of average speed sailing an easterly course out of Montauk harbor can make the Ledge in a bit less than an hour and a half. The Ledge runs an east-west pattern and lies southwest of Block Island. Obviously, the origin of the name is in its geography and not in any romantic history.

The west end of the Ledge is marked by red bell buoy #2. Slightly north/northeast of the buoy is most of the high bottom. The chart shows one piece of bottom rising up to 23 feet. South of the high bottom the water drops quickly to depths of 80 feet. For those unfamiliar with the area, the chart clearly indicates the danger "breaks in heavy weather" and they are serious. On an ebb tide and any strong wind from the south or east, this place should be avoided as well as Ulysses tried to avoid the rocks of Sirens. Even on a bright summer day with the prevailing wind from the southwest, the ebb tide will offer the old rock and roll condition. Make sure you stay away from this place when a heavy sea is running. Choppy conditions can be fishable, but dodging cresting waves and breaking seas is dangerous.

Flood tide does not run as hard as the ebb. Then again fishing always seems best on the ebb tide. In particular, the last of the ebb. It is possible to fish the high pieces with no more than eight ounce sinkers when bottom fishing during any running tide. Where bottom fish are found in depths of 40 feet and over you can expect to lay on the lead.

The Ledge is most widely known as a codfish spot and for good reason. Beginning in April, schools of small cod invade the hard kelp covered bottom. Even though the codfishing peaks in early May, they can be taken all season long if desired. Somewhat of a fall run takes place, but it does not compare to the spring fishing.

Each spring sees anglers return home with freezer filling quantities of cod.

Because of heavy kelp concentrations in the shallows, local cod take on a red color. Instead of the normal green or dark brown of the cod, they camouflage themselves in the color of the kelp.

Cod never get too big here. Average size for a day's fishing will be about five pounds. On occasion you may drop into a school that might average out at about eight pounds. You can look for one of about 15 pounds to take the pool. Fish of 20 pounds are not rare, but fish of larger sizes are rarely in evidence.

One of the pleasures in catching cod at the Ledge are the shallow depths. Young cod give a good account of themselves as fighters and will scrap all the way to the boat rail. Mix the fast action with light tackle, and this fishing is great fun. Many an experienced angler prefers this style of codfishing to the deep water pursuit of big cod.

The suggested size hook to use here is a 4/0 and just about everyone today uses the Mustad Beak style hook. Some anglers find that a 2/0 works well on the small cod. It has the advantage of needing less bait while showing less of the hook. Place one hook above the sinker and the other approximately two to three feet above the bottom hook. Eliminating the bottom hook when fishing in the rough bottom areas may be advisable.

Using big baits here to lure in a big cod is foolish. The Ledge is overrun with schools of hungry bergalls. These bergalls can attack the bait with all the ferocity of piranhas. A school of hungry bergalls has almost magical powers. These bait stealers can make a clam bait disappear in seconds. They can, and have, driven many an angler off a spot. When four anglers can go through a bushel of skimmers in only 30 minutes, you know it's time to move.

Locating the fish is done by drifting

over an area as cod tend to move about the Ledge. While drifting and fishing keep your recorder running. The best fishing usually coincides with bent rods and good recorder markings (it's possible to catch and not mark and mark and not catch). Once you think you have located a sizeable school you may try dropping the anchor on them. Some days the drifting is best because for some reason, the fish simply will not school up. One of the drawbacks to drifting is the inevitable hang-ups created by this method.

Also, drifting brings us to the Ledge's greatest hazard—lobster pots. Fishing in a sea of lobster pot buoys bobbing up and down is bad enough, but when the tide runs hard and the buoys disappear slightly under the surface (down to propeller depth) it can be a nightmare. Every crowded spring weekend sees a boat with lobster wrapped in its wheel. One plus for the pots is that they can be used as buoys to mark an area. Always keep your wits about you when fishing the Ledge. Trying to retrieve an anchor hung up in a string of pots is no fun, either.

The Ledge offers some blackfish but not enough to warrant fishing there. Good bottom west and southwest of the buoy is excellent for blackfish, but that is not to be considered the Ledge. Also further east and closer to the Island is the Hooter Buoy. This area is also excellent for cod and big flounder and everything else the Ledge has to offer. As the Ledge slowly dissipates to the east, patches of bottom exist all the way to the Hooter Buoy. Some really good bottom fishing is available on these "lumps." Big flounder are in attendance at the Ledge. Unfortunately the bergalls don't give you a chance to work on them. Most flounder are mistakes that are taken on cod hooks.

During the spring run, pollock invade the Ledge. Over the years, the size of the pollock has dwindled. A fish of 10 pounds is a big one nowadays. Most pollock taken are around two to five pounds. The best method for catching the pollock is to troll umbrella rigs. Often the pollock are no bigger than mackerel and really are a bore on trolled umbrellas.

Both cod and pollock can be taken here on diamond jigs and tube droppers. In fact, the cod bite better on the dropper rigs than the pollock do. Perhaps an answer to the bergall problem is to use lures as when the cod are chasing sand eels, the lures can do a better job than bait. Still I would say bait is the best overall bet for the cod. Lures are fun and will produce. If you don't care too much about numbers and enjoy fishing lures, you can definitely catch cod on dropper tubes at the Ledge.

Even the trolled umbrella will take cod here. The Ledge is one place where it is possible to find birds diving on bait that is being pushed to the surface by codfish.

Though striped bass and weakfish often wander into the Ledge area, no one has ever seemed to get a handle on either species. About four years ago, some impressive catches of striped bass were made here in the month of June. Last year a bass of 27 pounds found a jig, while we pursued bluefish aboard the Vivienne. Weakfish can be caught around the Ledge area but not on the Ledge itself. I believe the presence of bluefish may drive them off. As the season lengthens, bluefish only become bigger and thicker at the Ledge. More and more every year, the Montauk charter boat fleet must travel to the Ledge for an almost guaranteed bluefish catch. The journey to the Ledge on a half day trip does not leave much time for fishing, still you can make the day in a couple of hours at the Ledge. Tides are important. Most bluefishing is done at the slack water period. This is for several reasons. The most important being that the lobster pot buoys are "up" at slack. Just about all the charter boats troll umbrellas here and trolled umbrellas and underwater buoys don't mix. Another reason is that the bait comes off the bottom at slack water, allowing themselves to be corraled by the blues. You can see hot fishing at slack slowly drop off as the tide runs harder. The Ledge is one of the best spots for late season blues. More often than not, the last bluefish catches are made here. As an example: On November 23, 1982, I ran into large schools of really big bluefish while looking for cod at the Ledge.

At times in late August, school tuna and white marlin can be had as near to the Ledge as 20 minutes south. In fact, on the incoming tide, deep blue water of the offshore variety floods over the Ledge. In the spring of 1955, as a mate on a head boat, I put the gaff into a 30 pound torpedo fish. To illustrate how rare a catch that was, I have never heard of one being caught since then. It took a good deal of time before anyone at the dock could even identify it. The basic shape was that of a skate, only completely round. No pointed wings. The tail was more shark-like as was the texture of the skin. Instead of the thin appearance of the skate, this fish was about four to six inches thick. The most remarkable aspect of this beast was its capacity to give off a severe electrical shock.

Because the Ledge is a good distance away from any major fishing port (Montauk is the closest), it seldom gets overworked and still remains a mystery in many ways. I'm sure the Ledge can offer more than what we assume it can produce. Last spring the codfishing there was like old times. Maybe this season the gods will once again shine upon us and offer more of the same. If not on the Ledge, then any one of a number of good fishing areas that are within 10 to 20 minutes of the Ledge. The Ledge has the potential for great fishing and it will be high on my list again this spring. See you there!

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PLAYING IT SAFE WITH FLATTIES

by Matt Ahern

Maybe I'm prejudiced, but it has long been my thought that to enjoy the best of flounder fishing it is indeed necessary to use a boat. Some fellows call it coppering their bet. I like to call it the sure way.

I know from past experience that this claim will draw its fair share of flack, for it is certainly true that at times many flounder fishermen do well when trying their luck from shore. But it has long been my contention that for overall consistently good flounder fishing, nothing beats a boat.

And because flounder activity can be surprisingly good when skiff fishing (this also includes party and charter boats), you'll find many sinker bouncers who do actually and truly believe that's all that's necessary. Give them the use of a skiff and that's it. Not so, of course. No more than the swinging of a baseball bat will make of them potential Babe Ruths.

No, sir. There's more to this fishing than jumping into a skiff and heading for the nearest bit of fishy-looking water. And here is where the con comes in, for to the uninitiated it all seems so simple—especially so to the beginner who sees experienced fishermen returning wtih full buckets of fat flounder.

Sad to say, it doesn't take long for the novice to discover that somewhere he's gone amiss. It really isn't all that simple. But by the same token, there's nothing difficult about putting flounder in the bucket when skiff fishing if and when that discouraged fisherman learns to do several important "things."

First, and most necessary to bear in mind, is that flounder must be hunted. Our flat friend doesn't dash madly about hunting for food as do weaks and blues, for instance. Its approach is more sedate as it leisurely glides over choice feeding areas. In fact, it may do that in your selected area, but if that spot you're anchored over doesn't provide the right feeding conditions, you will bring home few flounder. And because of this, the act of moving the boat a mere 25 feet or so can make all the difference in the world. In fact, it may well make or break your day.

How do you go about finding the whereabouts of those feeding fish? Simple. You can take the easy way and anchor in an area where others are catching fish. To my mind, this isn't very sporting and may lead to dissension should you anchor too close. Better to select a likely-looking spot in 12 to 15 feet of water and lower the anchor.

Try this spot for at least 20 minutes and if several flounder are caught, break out the chum pot, or toss over a dozen or more cracked mussels and give the fish time to zero in on this windfall. What usually happens, though, is that your selected spot will immediately produce one or two flounder and that's it. Wait your 20 minutes, then, but if no more flounder are forthcoming pick up your anchor and seek greener pastures. Don't be discouraged. It may take several moves before you locate fish.

If this method is a complete failure, take heart; there's another way to skin the cat. But you've got to be prepared for just such an eventuality. This, of course, should never be a problem, for the good fisherman should emulate the proverbial Boy Scout and always be prepared.

Here's what I do—and I've been doing this for a good many years whenever I fish an unknown area. I carry a marker buoy, which I use only when I drift such areas. I will give the method of anchoring a chance first, but if it doesn't work after a reasonable time I break out the marker buoy. This buoy is made from discarded life preserver cork and it is painted a glaring orange. I chose this color because it is easier to see than white on those days when the wind is blowing and whitecaps abound.

When I'm ready to drift, I take stock of the area. If it is at all possible I try to keep to the 15 to 20 foot depths—this is where a chart of the area will come in handy. I run upwind of the place I choose to fish, get everything ready, and make sure the marker buoy is within easy reach. You don't want to hook a fish and then go searching for the buoy. By the time it is located, it is possible to drift out of the fish-containing area. I know; it has happened to me. And you know what? I never can relocate a place once I miss it. I think it is the fishing god's revenge for acting stupid.

The instant the first fish is hooked, I toss over that buoy. Not after the fish is landed, mind you. At that precise instant. Occasionally when anchoring over the buoyed area, the fish fail to cooperate—just as they do when anchored. But I've always found such occasions to be few and far between. What I do find, however, is usually a fair amount of flounder. (Incidentally, you can do this when fluke fishing, too. Works fine.)

Something else, too. Pay strict attention to tide activity. Flounder like a fair amount of water overhead when possible. In other words, if they

A boat enables those seeking flatties to "hunt them down." No big, fancy craft is needed either.

have a choice of 10 feet of water and 12, let's say, they will opt for the greater depth. Therefore, should the tide be dropping and your fishing activity shows signs of following suit, move to deeper water. Here, again, is where a chart of the area is worth its weight in gold.

The construction of a marker buoy is simplicity itself. I use a four ounce bank sinker, plus a sufficient length of nylon line—**not** monofilament from the reel. Mono has "memory" and is often the source of annoyance when using it for marker buoys. My buoy holds about 50 feet of line and with it I can fish any area known to contain flounder (or fluke). When the sinker strikes bottom, the buoy will stop unwinding, and it is a simple matter to fish near it. If the day is windy, the buoy may run out all its line, which will put the fishable area some distance from me if I fish close to it. What I do then is pick up the buoy and rewind it as I go along. When tension is felt, I remove about three feet of the rewound line to act as a "cushion" against the waves and make it fast to the buoy with a half hitch. If the tide is rising, I will allow perhaps an extra three feet as a cushion. I've been doing this for years, as I say, and never have had a bit of trouble. And it produces fish.

Windy days are quite common in spring and because of this many fellows ask if I double-anchor to assure myself of staying over a good fish-producing spot. No, I don't. If the day is that bad, I think it best to search out some bit of shelter. The fish will! So why not you? And if the day provides gentle breezes, I welcome it with open arms. Especially if the sun is shining, for I've found it means fish in the bucket.

Those gentle breezes will move the boat from side to side, first covering one small area, then another. I salt these areas with loose, cracked mussels as I drift over them. Heavily—just in case the breeze should moderate and leave me in one stationary spot. If this happens (and it sometimes does), it is a simple matter to cast to the areas containing that abundance of mussels and catch fish. This is another "trick" that works. (I don't think it is fair to call such a method a "trick," though. All it is is common sense.)

Never be in a hurry to leave a spot in which time has been spent in chumming. You never know when fish will move into it. I recall one spring day fishing the flats bordering Reynold's Channel in Island Park. The fishing was unusually slow and I recall trying every trick in the book—and probably some that weren't. But nothing seemed to work, so I decided enough was enough.

While dumping the last of the chum overboard and muttering to myself as to the vagaries of fish and fishing in general, my little spinning rod suddenly came alive in my hand. In an hour I had over a dozen fine, fat flounder—plus the usual assortment of throwbacks.

One more thing of importance when skiff fishing: bring along at least two different kinds of bait. I would suggest worm and clam. And if you feel particularly flush, add a dozen sandworms if what you have along are bloodworms. Favor soft clam (steamers) over skimmer and hard clam—in that order. Flounder are finicky. They may bite on bloodworm for an entire tide, then suddenly stop when that tide is reversed. But many times if you change bait, those finicky fish will begin biting all over again. This is quite common and all experienced flounder fishermen will bear me out on that.

And for goodness sake, bring along enough bait—don't skimp. If you run out of bait while shore fishing, no great harm as a rule, for it is a simple matter to replenish the supply at the nearest tackle shop. But when you're out in the bay and the bait runs out it is no simple matter to pack up and search out a bait station. And when you do, I'll tell you what happens when you return to continue fishing. The fish don't cooperate, or they have left the area. Once again the fishing gods have done you in. So bring along enough bait! You may never need it but several times a year, but when you do it is a mighty good feeling to know that come what may you're going to fill that bucket for a change.

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THE Fisherman

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Any angler releasing a fish meeting the minimum required weight for the Skillful Angling Award will receive a certificate suitable for framing. Fish may be weighed on any portable scale although estimated weights are acceptable for the Release Award. One certificate per species per angler please.

Al Reinfelder Memorial Award

This coveted trophy is given annually to the angler landing the largest striped bass (boat or surf) entered in the Skillful Angling Award Program.

Rules & Regulations

Fish must be caught on rod and reel in accordance with I.G.F.A. regulations. Contest runs from April 1, 1983 to November 30, 1983. Entries received after December 10, 1983 will be disqualified. An incomplete entry blank may result in disqualification of your catch. The editorial staff of The Fisherman reserves the right to award prizes as they see fit. All decisions are final.

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Eligible Species

Inshore Bottom Fish

Winter Flounder	2
Blackfish	5
Codfish	30
Summer Flounder (Fluke)	5

Inshore Game Fish

Striped Bass	30
Bluefish	15
Weakfish	10
Pollock	20

Offshore Big Game

Bluefin Tuna	200
Mako Shark	200
White Marlin	60
Swordfish	100

Freshwater Game Fish

Brown Trout	3
Brook Trout	2
Rainbow Trout	2
Largemouth Bass	4

"TINS" ACROSS THE SEASON

by John Fritz

The deadly effectiveness of "tin" was especially evident during the '82 surf fishing season

It seems that in every fishing season one technique or a specific lure will account for a disproportionate quantity of fish. In some years it is the introduction of a new gadget which has anglers scurrying to the nearest tackle store in an effort to secure their supply of the latest killer lure. Remember when word of the umbrella rig's effectiveness leaked out? Other seasons saw the reintroduction of a previously discarded idea. The application of a teaser languished in past memories until resurrected by Tony C. and his buddies on the Cape. The use of metal lures, more affectionately called tins, had its beginnings in the distant past. While it is true that these lures are used sporadically every season, this past year saw a tremendous resurgence in the use of tin, stimulated I'm sure by the excellent results these simple lures produced. From the earliest spring fishing for school bass on Long Island Sound to the fantastic south shore run on hefty bass and teen-sized bluefish late last fall, the results achieved over the entire season demonstrated that it was not just isolated instances, but a season-long display of this classic lure's capabilities.

The first surfmen of the year to sling these chunks of shiny metal into the water are probably those fishing the waters of the central north shore. School bass are the primary quarry and these anglers, using tackle suited to the task, enjoy the first real surf action beginning in the first week in May. With rods usually not exceeding nine feet, fitted with reels similar to the Penn 710, fishermen working the local beaches from Centre Island to Crane's Neck delight in the sport these fine fish provide. Bass populating this area are most likely fish spawned in the Hudson River which will work their way along the coast from west to east. The theory further presumes that these fish rarely travel much beyond Port Jefferson. Effec-

(Continued on next page.)

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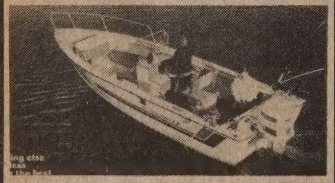

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tive lures at this time are necessarily small, the prevalent bait being small as are the school bass. Productive tins include, but are not limited to, the one ounce V-8 or the 1½ ounce J-9 which are lures designed by a master of the past Charlie Pasquale and offered now under the Diamond Feather Lure name. Ralph Votta (34 Quarry Lane, Levittown, NY 11756) who reproduces a complete line of tins originated by another late great surfman, Charlie Graves, also offers tins to fit this need. His one ounce J-2 or the 1½ ounce J-5 are suited for this early fishing.

Other more widely known lures which are appropriate at this time, are Tri-Fin's one ounce Spoon Jig, Hopkins 1¼ ounce NoEql, Luhr-Jensen's 1¼ ounce Limpet and last, but not least the proven one ounce Kastmaster. When existing weather conditions are suitable, the greatest sport and enjoyment can be had when using ultra-light, one-handed rods. Naturally, tins of lesser weights will have to be used, thereby reducing the angler's casting range. On many occasions distance is not a critical factor, plus the smaller lures are often more readily accepted.

When using ultra light tackle or if the danger of snagging a debris littered bottom exists, a change to block tin lures will allow the caster to maintain the size and shape of a particular lure while reducing the weight by one-half. As an example, Diamond Feather Lure's chrome plated lead alloy J-8 Jr. weighs two ounces, but the identical lure in block tin weighs only one ounce. A complete line of tins made of block tin are offered by the Diamond Feather Lure Co. (P.O. Box 188, Yonkers, N.Y. 11756), a selection of which will improve any surfman's versatility.

Before we leave this time and place and move to another highlight of past seasons, let me point out that these waters are host to a scrappy little game fish which can produce stimulating sport while stocking one's freezer with either food or bait. Schools of mackerel are constantly on the move throughout Long Island Sound during these opening weeks of the fishing season. When boat traffic is at a minimum these schools will frequently run the beach within reach of the shore-bound angler. Almost any small shiny metal lures will attract these sleek gamesters with some of the favorites being D.F.'s 1/2 oz. Scupey or the R-3, the Graves 1/2 oz. PeeWee or the 1/2 oz. Hopkins NoEql. Even though many boatmen use multi-hook tubed rigs to slaughter mackerel, the addition of feathers or a tube to these tins does not necessarily increase the results.

During the past year bluefish, mostly medium sized fish but some better than 10 pounds, hit the beach at Breezy Point just around Memorial Day. Even though many fish were taken on bait, surfmen slinging tin enjoyed wild action with these spirited game fish. This south shore beach necessitated the use of heavier tackle with a corresponding increase in the weight of the tins put to use. Favorites at this particular time were the standard J-8 or the Graves D-5 and J-6. There was sustained fishing here over a few week period, but with periodic lulls occurring when strong offshore winds were coupled with a bright sun.

In the early part of the 1982 season, surfmen were able to take two of the big three surf game fish, with mackerel thrown in as an added bonus, all by using nothing more than tins. In the waning days of June the last of the big three joined the fray and started hitting tin in the Fire Island Inlet area. Small blues have been foraging within the Inlet for several weeks providing the local anglers the opportunity to enjoy many hours of fast paced action, but now the more highly prized weakfish makes its presence known by hitting the tins meant for these accommodating blues.

In actuality this fishing can be divided into three components, the daylight action off the rocks of the Sore Thumb, the twilight fishing along the ocean shore of Robert Moses State Park or the night-long dragging of lead along the bottom off the tip of the bar at Democrat Point. Naturally with all this activity taking place in such a limited area these three methods tend to overlap. The overall favorite of the casters perched on the rocky sides of the Sore Thumb is the Ava 007. Of course, if this particular lure is not on hand, other tins will suffice but they should be of a shape which allows them to descend rapidly through the swirling currents to be worked along the bottom. The D-5 or D.F.'s J-666 or E-8 are all tins without a built-in keel. A lure designed with a keel has a tendency to ride upward in swift flowing water; therefore, the force of the current encountered off the Thumb will prevent the lure from being worked through the feeding zone. The weaks lurking in the depths adjacent to the Thumb prefer to feed at or near the bottom, therefore, it is important to keep the lure at that depth. Bring a supply of lures, though, since concrete reinforcing rods find these tins are irresistible as the weakfish; only they can't be brought to gaff.

Twilight action along the open beaches usually involves slinging the 2¼ oz. Hopkins Shorty, the 2 oz. Kastmaster or the D-5. Why these three dissimilar tins are all productive is a mystery especially when the weakfish are feeding primarily on sand eels. After the sun has set and darkness envelopes the shore the action continues with some Democrat regulars changing to J-8s or D-5s which have been painted white. Others regroup on the tip of the sand bar jutting into the inlet itself and spend the night dragging Hopkins 4H NoEqls along the sandy bottom.

The Scene of the action for tin slingers now switches eastward, as

tne summer draws to a close, where hordes of small to medium sized bluefish please the anglers lining the ocean's shore from Montauk's famed lighthouse westward along the sandy beaches of the south shore. As the weeks pass and the storms of the changing season lash the coast, these smallish blues are joined by their larger brethren who have spent the summer in deep water decimating the sand eel populations in such popular fishing locations as the Montauk Triangle. Joining together in their desire to feed heavily prior to migration are now striped bass and weakfish. As this mass of fish pass along the entire south shore, excellent surf fishing can be had just about anywhere along the coast all the way to Jones Inlet and beyond. A few of the choice areas are found at Ditch Plains, Hither Hills, Mecox, Shinnecock east, the Westhampton beaches, Smith Point, the National Seashore, Robert Moses #4, Jones Beach #6 and West End 2. A list of beaches readily accessible to anglers from every part of the Island whether they own a four wheel drive vehicle or not.

When moderate weather conditions prevail standard tins such as the Hopkins NoEql, the J-8 or the 3 oz. Kastmaster are sufficient. Only now knowledgeable surfmen add tubing to the tail hooks of their favorite tins. Color preferences vary with the individual and the whim of the fish but red, white or green colored tubes have all taken their share of fish. On days when strong onshore winds prevail or which present heavy seas and a possible sweeping lateral drift, tins which can overcome the obstacles should be tried. D.F.'s 3 oz., 8X of FT, the 3½ oz. CB Jr. or possibly the 4½ oz. CB Sr. are possibilities as are the Graves 3½ oz. PDQ or the 4½ oz. R/P. The Ava 47 is also ideally suited to master adverse weather conditions.

On the opposite shore of Long Island, after an early autumn pick of fish from Miller Place eastward, the Southold Town beaches close out the season with local surfmen taking monster blues on Hopkins 4H NoEqls and teaser combinations. As the ranks of the teen blues are thinned the void is quickly filled with hordes of school sized bass. With the wilder weather more common in the latter stages of the season tins which will slice through the wind and sink rapidly are preferred. Since the fish tend to run small, a tin with great bulk is not desired. Tri-Fin's Teardrop jig, with the 2 oz. weight a favorite and adorned with a white or green tube is a dynamite lure at this time and place especially.

So just as the season started seven months before, school bass, only now on either end of the Island's north shore, will continue to strike shiny pieces of metal. Their effectiveness is proven year after year, my only complaint is that when the plug bag is loaded with a variety of tins it's so damned heavy.

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CANOE STRIPERS

by George Sampson

Want early action on stripers? Try the Hudson at Croton Bay.

Since I live in New Brunswick I like to fish for my first striped bass of the season in the waters of the Mullica and in Great Bay. Fishing here has not been as good early in the first part of the spring run and I don't do well on bass until mid or late May in these old and favorite striper haunts.

To catch my first bass I began to fish the Hudson River above the Tappan Zee Bridge and although I have only fished it now for four years, I feel that I have done very well.

Last May I met a biologist from New York State while I was fishing at Croton Bay and he told me of the good spawning years the Hudson has been having during the last 10 years. I believe he said that four out of the last ten years were good enough to be called dominant year classes for the Hudson. So while the Chesapeake Bay seems to be in trouble, the Hudson is having good fishing for stripers.

Let me start on my first year on the Hudson because it was such a bust for the first few trips. Why I stayed with it, I don't know, but the promise of striped bass, I guess, made me come back. I found a lack of launch ramps and confusing directions on how to get to some fishing areas. I finally settled on fishing from my canoe and hand carrying the canoe to the water. There is good parking in Croton Point Park and it is only a short walk to the edge of the Bay. You could also launch a small cartopper if you had a buddy to help you.

My canoe is a Grumman aluminum which I've put carpet on the bottom to quiet the noise of the hull so I don't spook bass. Rod holders are installed on the cross braces for trolling and I have a 6 hp outboard that pushes the canoe nicely from place to place, yet slow trolls almost to a standstill.

It took me three trips to finally figure out the Bay. I watched other guys catching stripers, so I stuck with it trying to imitate what they were doing.

White or yellow bucktails seem to be the best lure in the lima bean style. Cast the bucktail out and then let out more line so the water pressure as you troll will lift the bucktail and keep it from dragging through the leaves and algae on the bottom. I like to add a small piece of squid to mine, but I don't ever see anyone else doing this. I think the smell attracts more strikes.

Troll in a pattern that will either take you from the end of the Bay from Tellers' Point to the edge of the marsh at the top of the Bay, or along the side of the Bay with the railroad tracks, crossing over to the marsh about two-thirds up the Bay.

The best tides seemed to have been the beginning of the outgoing and the last of the incoming for the upper Bay. The beginning of the incoming and end of the outgoing are better for the mouth of the bay.

Sometimes Rebels and Hellcats in the small sizes will also work very well and my largest bass from the Hudson, a 27 pounder, struck a blueback Rebel in only two feet of water. I could see the wake the fish made as it surged forward to strike the plug!

Bait is also good and sandworms are used by nearly everyone, unless large bloods are available at local stores. I prefer sands because they are cheaper and are easier to get. I also bring squid to cut into strips.

Rig 2/0 gold beak hooks on a short leader of about 18 inches and use a fish finder rig while drifting. Baits won't work while you are trolling.

In my four years fishing the Hudson, I have made 23 fishing trips to Croton Bay. Seven trips resulted in no fish, including my first three trips. My best day was 38 bass from 15 inches to 18 pounds, while the worst not counting no fish days, was five bass from 13 inches to eight pounds. Each of the other four no-fish days came early in the season when I was more exploring the bay to get a feel for it on the start of the new season rather than fishing in prime time of late April to late May.

One thing that has always impressed me about the Hudson River is, despite the bad water of the lower bay by the city, Croton Bay is often glass clear unless wind has stirred up the bottom muddying the bay. The scenery is great, the people—the few that you will see—are friendly and the fishing is usually fairly good.

—HUDSON RIVER STRIPERS—

As spawning results in the Chesapeake Bay continue at a low level, the importance of the striper fishery in the Hudson River grows. For the sport angler, the fishing can be steady and productive with few other fishermen on the water, especially at hot spots like Croton Bay.

—TACKLE—

Light spinning with 8 to 12 pound test line, fly tackle capable of casting a #8 weight forward line, baitcasting tackle on the light side with 10 to 15 pound line. Beach fishermen will use 7 to 9 foot light surf rods and 12 to 17 pound line.

—ACCESS—

Getting to the edge of the River often requires local knowledge of parking areas. There are county parks at Croton and Verplanck which are shown on New York State maps.

—LAUNCH RAMPS—

Found at Nyack (check with police department for daily permit) and at Georges Island near Verplanck. Cartoppers and canoes can launch at many spots along the river once you know where to park. There are several private launch ramps in boat clubs.

—TACKLE SHOPS—

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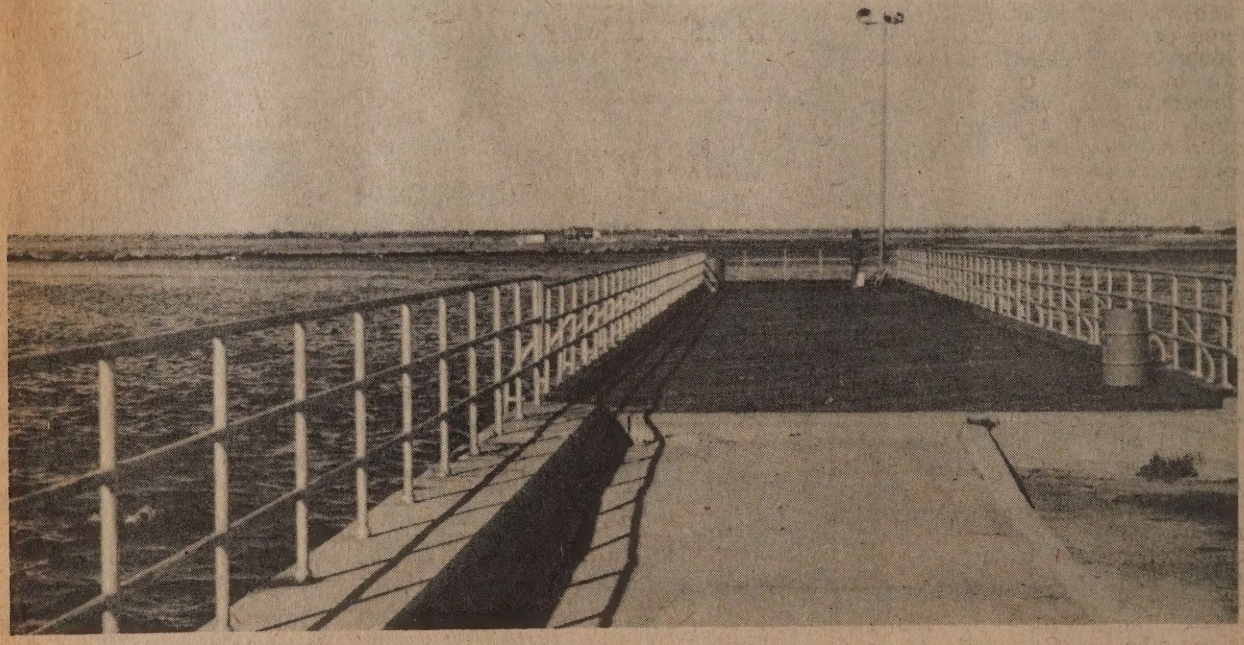
MAGNOLIA BOULEVARD PIER

by Stu Miller

Many years ago, I was introduced to the Magnolia Blvd. pier in Long Beach by a stranger I met in Beckmann's Tackle in Lynbrook. A wicked south wind had wiped out my south shore surf fishing that day, and I was open to suggestions. Soon, with three dozen bloods in a box beside me and the tip of my 10 foot surf stick protruding out the passenger side front window, I followed the newly given directions to, as it was described to me, "One of the most productive fishing piers on Long Island." That isn't saying much, of course, since our area has a severe shortage of fishing piers of ANY kind. Just fantasize as to how nice it would be if we had a few of those fishing piers that jut out into the ocean, the way nearly all the other states bordering on the Atlantic do.

In any case, that Magnolia Blvd. pier saved the day for the ol' boy. Working the tip of the pier, on a full six hours of incoming water, I put away a couple of dozen flounder, a 16 inch fluke, and one small blackfish. I stayed late into the afternoon for two reasons: (a) I knew I had a load of



The Magnolia Blvd. Pier reaches out into one of the most productive stretches of water on the western south shore.

company at home that I didn't care to be bothered with, and (b) I was enjoying myself too much to leave.

I've fished on this pier many times since then and have seen how it has continued to charm the fishing public, the prime reason being that the pier juts 156 feet out into the very fishy waters of Reynolds Channel. A good cast will put a bait on prime bottom where you can effectively hold bottom with a three or four ounce pyramid sinker. Some anglers prefer to have their baited rigs drift slowly along with the current, enabling them to cover more bottom. The use of a one or two ounce bank will permit this during any running tide.

In season, a savvy angler fishing from the Magnolia Blvd. pier can glom up flounder, fluke, kings, blowfish, small porgies, sea bass and blacks, snappers, crabs, an occasional eel, bay blues, and if the stars are in the right position and Lady Luck is smiling, stripers and blues. In other words, you can have it all, right off this pier.

Choice positions at the very north end of the pier go quickly, so in the prime part of the season (March through Oct.), it's advisable to arrive early in the day. Or, opt for an afternoon's tide, when the crowd usually thins out. As near as I can determine, the area surrounding the pier is practically all mud bottom. The pier is 156' long by 18' wide. At the tip, you've got 15' of water and a good cast to mid-channel will put you into a maximum of roughly 25' of water. The pier's decking is of thick, heavy wood planking which, as of the end of last November, was in need of some repair, having a good number of four to six inch holes you could break an ankle in. It may be repaired by the time you get down there, but be advised. Even so, the pier is extremely serviceable and safe to fish from despite the craters. Just be careful.

The pier is directly in front of you as you enter the huge, free parking field at the northern end of Magnolia Blvd. Free parking space is there in abundance, and there's a 3½ ft. pipe railing all around the pier and the parking area for safety, should you bring the family along. There is no shelter or cover, so in the event of rain, be sure to have foul weather gear along with you in the car.

Getting to the pier is simple enough: coming from the east, take Meadowbrook Parkway southbound and get off at Exit M10 which veers off to the right, just before the Jones Beach toll booths (where Sonny Corlione got swiss-cheesed). Follow Lido Blvd. which becomes Park Avenue and hang a right at Magnolia Blvd., then four short blocks and you're there. Or, southbound on Long Beach Road to Park Avenue, right turn on Magnolia, etc. Coming from the west, cross the Atlantic Beach Bridge, continue east (a left turn off bridge) to Magnolia Blvd., a left turn and continue straight north to the pier.

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REVOLUTION IN ELECTRONICS

Part Two—*by Al Ristori*

In part two of this three part series, we'll take a further look at the graph recorder market and also take a peek at some of the new flashers available.

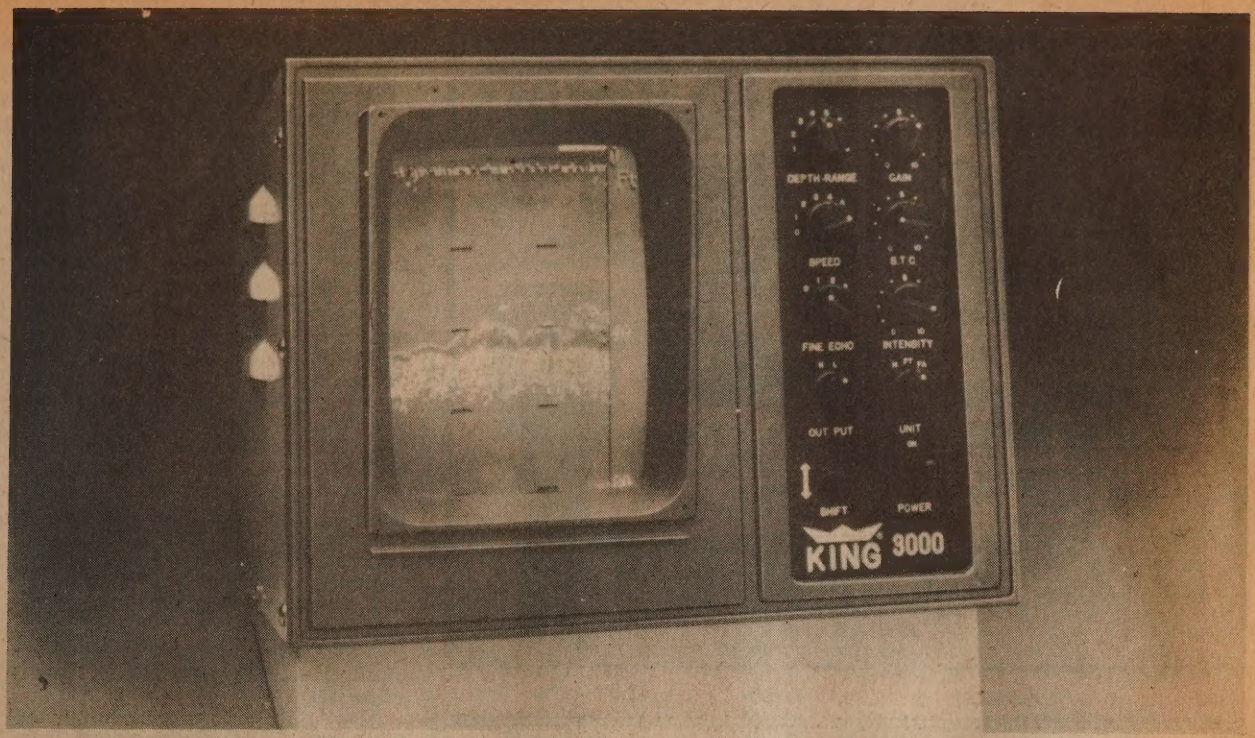
Carrying on from last week's discussion of graph recorders and chromoscopes, let's first look at a couple of inexpensive new models from Ray Jefferson. The 960 has seven scales from 0 to 15 to 0 to 960 feet. It also features white line control and a deep burn chart which produces high contrast readings on white paper. The list price is just $699.95, with the 960A (50 kHz transducer) going for another $30. The new Ray Jeff 806 is $100 cheaper and features white line with six ranges down to 480 feet.

Going up quite a bit in price, Epsco has introduced the latest in a line of colored video sounders which first hit the market in 1979. The CVS 8800 features eight colors on a large 11 inch CRT screen. Seven different modes of operation allow for examining areas as small as two feet or out to maximum range and various combinations of bottom, normal or spreads. The CVS 8800 also includes digital display of sea bottom, range and spread ranges and both VRM and spread marker. Available frequencies are 28, 50, 75, and 200 kHz. In six inch paper machines, Epsco features the ProSearch SL602S, a 200 kHz white line unit with ranges from 0 to 12 down to 600 feet—and a three-year extended limited warranty. The SL602SD adds a digital depth display to those features. The six inch compact 153 series includes shallow, medium and deep models with 300 watt transmitters and white line control.

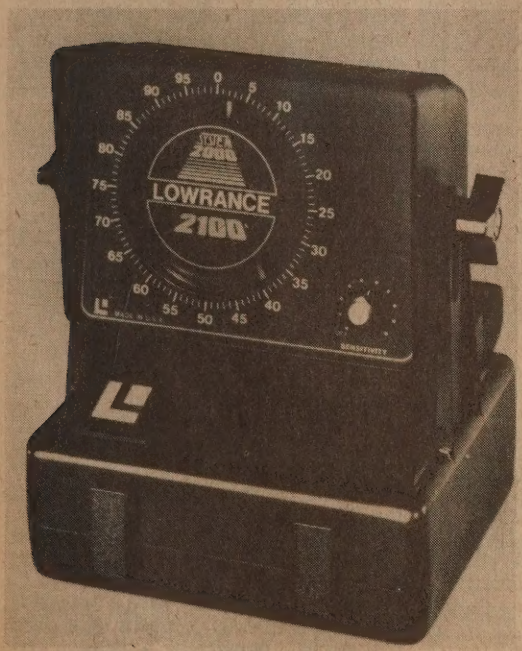
Datamarine's Kodiak SLR-2 is the second generation version of their eight inch microcomputer fishfinder. There are four zero-to-bottom ranges which read out in feet, fathoms or meters—providing choices ranging from 0 to 100 feet down to 0 to 500 fathoms. In each range selected, the zero-to-bottom reading can be magnified five times, displaying any 20 percent section over the full eight inch paper. As is the case with the Lowrance units, the Kodiak automatically prints depth and reference lines directly on the chart. Al Anderson, the famous Rhode Island skipper who pioneered downrigger trolling for pollock off Block Island, swears by this machine and gives it credit for much of his success. However, with a list price over

Sonic Wave VS 2020

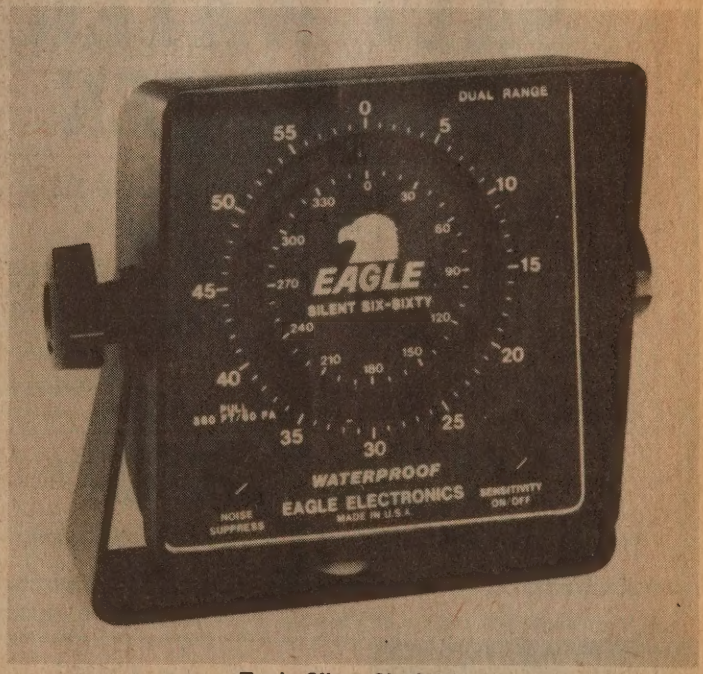
Sonic Wave 440



King 3000 color video sounder



Lowrance System 2000 portable in use, and in carrying mode.



Eagle Silent Six-Sixty

$3,000, it's not for everyone.

Raytheon has a huge line of graph recorders and chromoscopes. At intermediate prices (about $1500 to $2500) are white line six and eight inch units with 12 ranges and 500 and 1000 watt transmitters. Similar size machines with 24 ranges and power up to 10,000 watts run in the $4000 to $9000 area. The six and eight inch JFZ Zoom Sounders offer 9,900 recording ranges and are available at less than $7,000. Most expensive of the commercial graphs are the JFW dual frequency 8 and 12 inch models that run from $9220 to $20,975. The color JFV video units feature 16 level color in 11 and 13 inch displays. Least expensive is the JFV-117 11 inch model featuring Raytheon's zoom ranging with full screen bottom-lock tracking plus adjustable white line.

Sonic Wave has some very interesting black and white video units at lists under $2000—with discounted prices in the $1200 area. The new twin screen VS 2040 has dual transducers and a zoom feature. The six inch TV screen display is split so you can view the different readings from 20 degree, 200 kHz and 36 degree, 75 kHz transducers to get a very accurate picture of what's going on below you. In addition, there's a numeric depth readout. A white line helps discriminate fish on bottom, there's a display freeze feature, and numeric displays of boat speed and water temperature. The VS 2020 is the same unit with only a single transducer and ranges to 720 feet. Both models carry a five-year warranty on the cathode ray tube (CRT). Less expensive are the 990S (zoom feature - 1,440 feet) and

(Continued on next page.)

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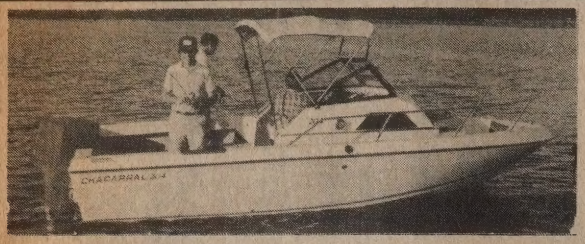

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660S (no zoom - depths to 360 feet). The new 440 graph recorder has four inch paper and covers six ranges from 0 to 25 to 0 to 300 feet. With 400 watts of power and a 32 degree wide-angle transducer it retails under $500. In six inch paper, the 1360 series ranges to 720 feet and the 1380 series goes down to 1,680 feet.

Aquasonic is marketing the electronics formerly made by Garcia. Their inexpensive flasher/recorder combo comes in four versions, all of which provide eight ranges. The AE410 is a 240-foot unit with a 16 degree transducer, while the AE430 uses the same transducer to go to 480 feet. The 240 foot AE415 and 480 foot AE435 both have 54 degree transducers.

The Apelco Division of Raytheon features the relatively inexpensive Ranger 400 and 1600 White Line Recorders. The 400 uses 200 kHz sounding pulses and ranges to 320 feet, while the 1600 uses 50 kHz and gets down to 192 fathoms. Both utilize five inch paper and have six ranges starting at 0 to 10 feet. List prices are under $500.

Also relatively inexpensive are the Sea Hawk white line recorders from Unimetrics. The 420 has six ranges from 0 to 60 to 360 feet, while the 421 starts at just 0 to 12 feet and ranges down to 384 feet. Both use four inch paper and come with 200 kHz bronze thru-hull transducers.

Western Marine Electronics brags of their commercial Wesmar Omnicolor video sounders, but has something even more advanced in their Omnicolor sonars. The SS265 sonar scans up to 2400 feet in a full 360 degree sphere. Of course, these sonars are intended for commercial fishing operations—but anyone with the money to spend can get a big jump on the fleet by investing in one.

Just as graph recorder prices have plummeted in recent years, so, too, are video costs. I've already noted how relatively inexpensive the Sonic Wave black and white videos have become. Now King Marine is coming out with their 3000 Color CRT Fishfinder at a suggested retail of just $2195. The 3000 employs eight colors; will operate on a power range of 11 to 40 volts; can interface with a standard home or car stereo cassette tape deck for replay capability; displays an infinite number of depth measurements in feet, fathoms or meters; and comes with a detachable sun visor. Shipments will start in March. King also has a line of compact four inch paper graph recorders at modest prices. The $499 list 1011A has a first range of just 0 to 9 feet and goes down to 450 feet. Three-tone gray printing and adjustable white line are featured in a recorder that weighs only five pounds.

Flashers: Now that I've thoroughly confused you about recorders, let's take a look at some of the highlights in flashers. Lowrance has most of the market covered in this field, which they pioneered with the portable

"little green box" in 1957. The System 2000 units are considered so reliable that they carry a full three-year warranty. Topping the line is the 2330A with 0 to 60, 0 to 180 and 0 to 300 scales in feet. The 2460A ranges down to 360 feet and has an audible depth alarm. Other models go to lesser depths for inshore and fresh-water use, but all feature 200 watts of peak-to-peak output power and will operate to at least 70 mph. Six inch resolution is standard, except on the economical 2100A (where it's 21 inches). There are similar units in the System 200 portable line, all of which can be unhooked from their new streamlined battery packs and attached to gimbal mounts for use as permanent-mount flashers. The latest version of the "little green box" is the P300E, a dual range (0 to 60 and 0 to 120) unit with 200 watts of power that comes in a metal carrying case and now carries the three-year full warranty. Lowrance is also big in digitals and flasher dash mounts. The 3600 digital is a 200 watt unit with an alarm that ranges to about 600 feet. H However, there's now the optional LPB 300 power booster that will take it down to 800 to 1000 feet.

The Eagle Division of Lowrance makes a less expensive line of flashers which are completely waterproof, have 200 watts of peak-to-peak power and read at speeds to at least 70 mph. A one-year full warranty is provided, along with a three-day turnaround guarantee and a maximum charge after warranty of $19.50. Like the Lowrance units, the Eagles are made in the USA and a toll-free number is provided for on-the-spot service info.

The new OMC Trackers are fish finding depth sounders which are neither graphs nor flashers. On flashers, the signal from the transducer energizes a light mounted on a disc which spins through motorized power. The Tracker's acoustical impulse is processed through a programmed microcomputer which interprets the impulse and controls all of Tracker's functions. The display isn't on a spinning disc, but rather is liquid crystal (LCD). This display doesn't need shielding from the sun. Indeed, it gains intensity from sunlight, and a back-light is used for night reading. The Tracker 2000 provides both analog display and analog/digital LCD in one instrument. Both the 1000 and 2000 have an audible fish search and three-second display freeze. When a fish target is detected, a chirp is sounded and a display appears on the analog scale. The display is frozen for three seconds to give viewing time to determine the depth of the target. This means that you can glance away and still pick up the target. Four depth ranges run from 0 to 15 to 150 feet. The Trackers are available only through OMC dealers with a suggested price of $339.50, less transducers.

Next week we'll take a look at more flashers and other electronic gear.

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STREAMER TACTICS FOR SPRING TROUT

by Lou Truppi

More trophy size trout fall to streamers than any other feather and hair creation.

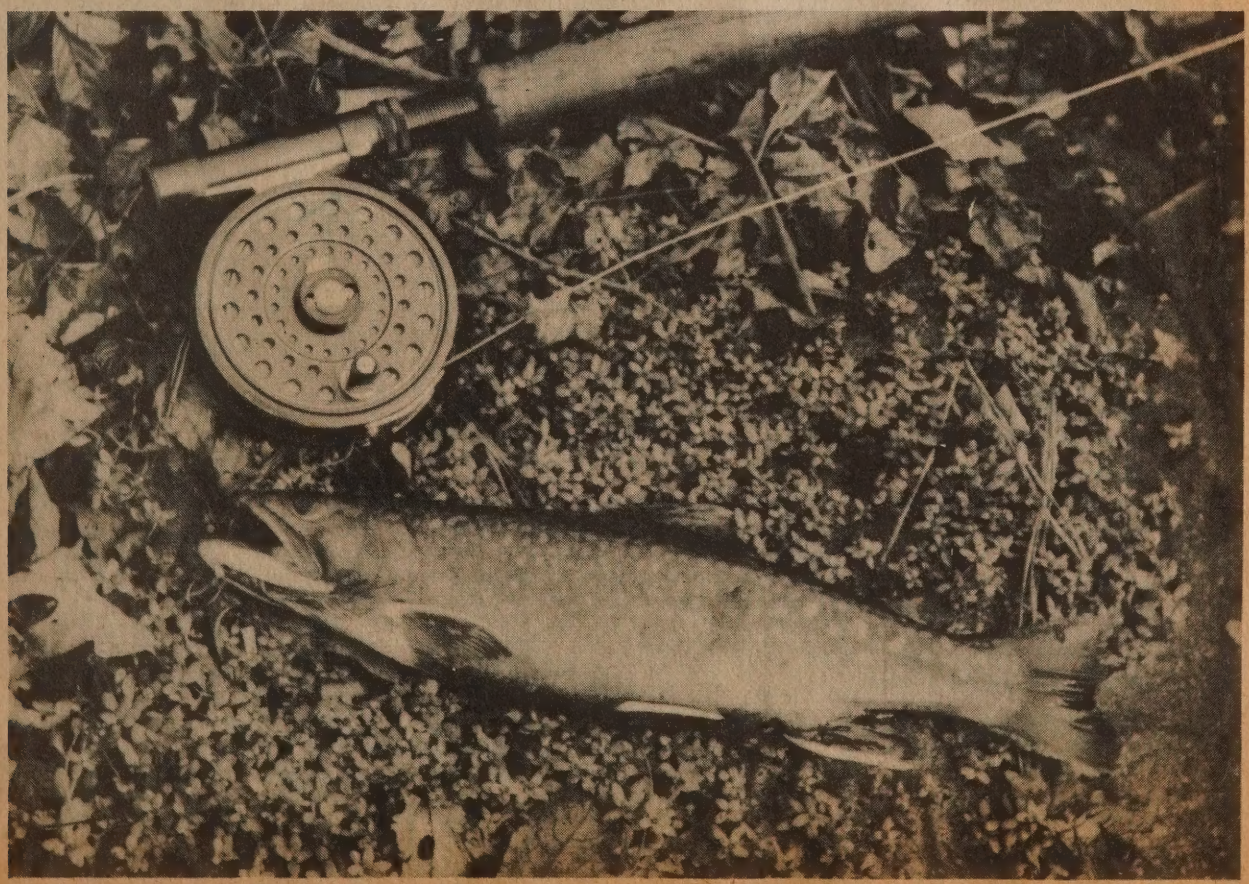
Probably the most overlooked fly by the majority of fly fishermen is the streamer. This fly, when properly fished, accounts for many trophy size trout throughout the season. If I were to list the species I have taken via this fly I would probably fill this page. In short, I'm hard put to remember a species I have not landed on this potent fly. The streamer can be equally effective whether fished on a roaring mountain stream or placid lake. Another aspect of streamer fishing is the fly's ability to produce trophy size trout when all else fails. Let's examine some methods of using this effective fly when fishing a variety of waters and conditions.

The streamer's effectiveness is limited only by the angler's ability to properly recognize when and how to fish this productive fly.

Let's start by selecting an outfit suitable for streamer fishing. Since streamers are considerably larger than most flies, a heavier line must be chosen to cast these flies. As in all fly fishing, initial selection should be directly related to size of the fly to be used. Assuming you're going to fish streams throughout the east, line sizes 5 through 7 will fill the bill. Rods should be capable of handling these lines and at least eight feet long. If larger waters are to be fished, then by all means choose a heavier outfit. Since most casts will be under 50 feet, the above outfits should fulfill all your needs. If you choose a graphite rod, since they are considerably lighter in weight, choose a slightly longer one of perhaps 8½ to nine feet. These longer rods are a sound plus when presenting streamers under a myriad of situations.

Streamer fishing methods are almost as numerous as the fly patterns themselves. Early season dictates somewhat different methods than later in the season. I'm sure the old adage to fish slow and deep in cold early season waters holds true to some degree. However, I've found this rule to be inadequate in a lot of circumstances. The streamer can be as important to the fly fisherman as a crank bait is to the tournament bass fisherman. When properly fished it can and should cover a lot of water

(Continued on next page.)



Streamers account for many fine trout, particularly early in the season.

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fast. In simple terms, the more water covered the more fish that can see and strike your offering.

Many years ago I stumbled on a method of fishing streamers that consistently produced big fish in early season streams. Water at these times was high but generally running clear and cold. Most streamer advocates cast the fly to the head of the pool allowing the fly to gain depth as it descends through the pool. When it reaches the tailrace, the fly makes a rapid turn triggering strikes. Since most early season trout prefer the lower pool reaches, this method produces fish. However, on many occasions when the water was higher than normal, these same fish will advance to more secure positions throughout the pool, this method drew a blank. Under these conditions I tried lowering the fly from the head of the pool down through its mid and lower stretches. I used a floating line and added split shot to attain proper depth for the streamer. The split shot placement plays a very important role in the streamer's action. It should be weighted enough to hold bottom in all but the extremely fast water at the head of the pool. As it descends through the pool, the shot holds bottom while the current activates the fly. The weight allows the streamer to cover all pocket water that now harbors these trout. Unlike the casting method, the fly is now delivered at a much slower pace although working actively in the current. Remember this faster water regulates the trout to find shelter using rocks, undercut banks, logs, etc. Their present holding position may limit your ability to reach them using regulation casting procedures. While on the other hand, the drop method will present the streamer to a variety of spots via the direct approach. Under these conditions I've taken many good size fish while others went fishless. It's a natural method that sweeps the streamer into a variety of holding areas untouched by normal approaches.

The streamer can be held in position for even the slow taker to make up his mind and the tantalizing action created by the current on the fly doesn't permit too many trout to pass it up.

Under normal water conditions the streamers may be presented with either a floating or sink tip line. What governs this is usually the speed and depth of water to be fished. Fishing slow deep pools, I've found it advantageous to use a floating line with a long fine leader. The fine leader will allow the streamer to attain depth while the floating line will eliminate excessive drag and prevent snags. The fly can be pulled through the pool in a natural manner without a heavy line preceding it and spooking the fish.

Fishing deep fast water situations, I lean toward a sink tip fly line coupled with a short medium weight leader. When the water's fast you must get down fast. This applies to riffle water as well as fast deep pools. The sink tip will allow the fly to reach the productive zones. Under both of these situations you must cast up and across stream. This casting procedure will allow the fly to gain some depth by the time it reaches the trout's holding positions. The streamer imitates a small baitfish and any action imparted to the fly should closely resemble a darting or struggling minnow. Many times a fast stripping action will allow for this type of action. I've found when the water warms a little later in the season, I've had numerous hits by starting this action immediately when the streamer begins its down pool drift. This warmer water will move those trout into the head of the pool feeding positions due to the lower water in the pool's main body and cooler more oxygenated water found at the pool's head. The angler may opt to impart action to the streamer at any position along its drift path. Once the fly has reached the end of its drift, it will automatically pick up speed as it turns back to a straight position.

Many patterns of streamers will take trout. I prefer the marabou and bucktail streamers for 99 percent of my stream fishing. The marabou can be simply lethal for early season trout when properly manipulated. The bucktail provides a better choice for the dropback method of streamer fishing I described earlier in this article. I prefer my bucktails be dressed with full mylar bodies. This style of body more closely imitates a small baitfish's outline and is a consistent producer.

The angler should avail himself of the type of minnow that is found in the waters he will be fishing. This will enable him to purchase or tie a streamer that will closely embody the minnow found in those waters. For instance, many darker water streams will spawn a minnow with a golden hue to it, while many gin-clear streams produce vividly silver sided minnows. It's to your advantage to imitate the indigenous baitfish as closely as possible where color and size are concerned. Also take a minute to study the minnow's action on their home grounds. Take note of how fast and what action they exhibit when they swim. This will give you a clue as to how to fish your streamer.

Many styles of water can be fished with streamers. The small streams generally don't interest me when I'm streamer fishing. I prefer the medium and large faster moving waters to present my feathers. These rougher waters will assist the angler in fly action that most closely resembles a fleeting baitfish. As I've previously brought out, the streamer fisherman can cover a lot of water in a hurry. Using various methods I described in this article, his streamer can be presented under most conditions. It's truly a fly for all seasons.

I opt for the larger flies in early season high water conditions. Later in the season with the exception of night

fishing, I scale down my offering so it can be presented on finer leaders corresponding with lower clear water conditions.

Perhaps the streamer fly more than any other fly demands not a subtle take, but an aggressive hit by the fish. The speed at which the fly is presented makes up the trout's mind for him. Either attack it or miss a sumptuous meal. This hit gets my blood flowing like no other style of fly fishing. Everything about streamer fishing is exciting. The water fished generally harbors a big fish because of its deep or swift nature. The fly excites larger fish and this is what you will often get. When that hit comes you will know it. You will get a sound, sharp fly stopping rap that will put more than a light bend in your fly rod. This is truly one of the finest methods of fly fishing.

Streamer fishing can be mastered by even the neophyte fly fisherman. It's not simple but it certainly doesn't require the casting ability needed to present a dry fly or the feel required in nymph fishing. It more closely resembles wet fly fishing in various forms. It gives the beginning fly fisherman a chance to catch a good size trout with minimal amount of skill.

When fishing lakes, streamers account for a variety of species such as trout, bass, perch and pickerel. The major differences in streamer fishing techniques as opposed to lake fishing is primarily the choice of lines and your casting ability. Unlike stream fishing with the current carrying your fly for added fishing range, you, the angler, must be able to go the extra distance via your casting ability in the lake. Even the smaller lakes demand the use of sinking line or at least a sink tip fly line. Though early season fish may be found in the shallows, the depth here may be three to five feet. In this case a sink tip weight forward line prevails here while a full sinking line may be required to reach the fish in the lake proper. If you must reach depths of 15 feet or more, a lead core shooting head would be in order. You can readily see the need for longer casts when lake fishing with the streamers. The long range casts will allow your fly to attain plenty of depth and be presented through more preferred water.

Perhaps more than any other, the key to a good streamer fisherman lies in the angler's abilty to recognize the proper way to present his fly. As you can see, a streamer will take all types of fish under a variety of conditions. Therefore, the angler must first make himself aware of how each circumstance on any given body of water can best provide the technique needed to produce fish on any given day. Once he masters knowledge of a variety of techniques, he will certainly catch fish on his streamer more consistently.

So there you have it—a lot of sound reasons for fly fishermen to start fishing streamers.

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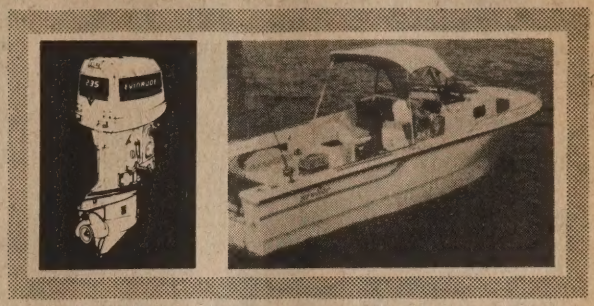

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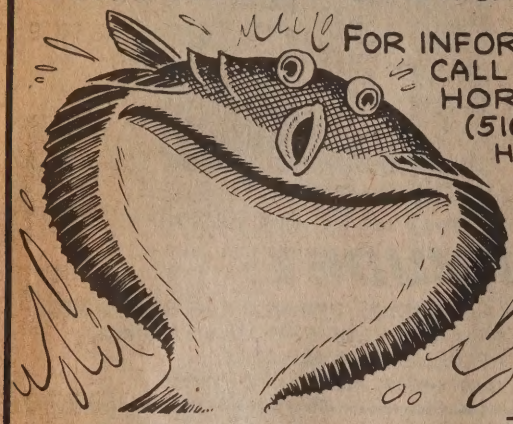
APRIL FISHING NEWS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

FLOUNDER TOURNAMENT APR. 23-24 SPONSORED BY THE *ATLANTIS ANGLERS*, BOX 10, FREEPORT, N.Y. 11520. AN INSHORE ALL CLUB CONTEST FROM SMITH PT. BRIDGE IN GREAT SOUTH BAY TO THE N. JERSEY LINE. FOR INFORMATION CALL RALPH HOROWITZ (516) 889-0931 OR HOWARD STERNBERG (516) 536-7022.

A 9 LB. 4 OZ. SHAD IS A NEW STATE RECORD FOR NEW JERSEY AND A WORLD RECORD I.G.F.A. TIE FOR THIS SPECIES. IT WAS CAUGHT BY MICHAEL P. SHOPE OF MIDDLETOWN, *FIRST TIME SHAD FISHING*, IN THE DELAWARE RIVER NEAR MILLBROOK.



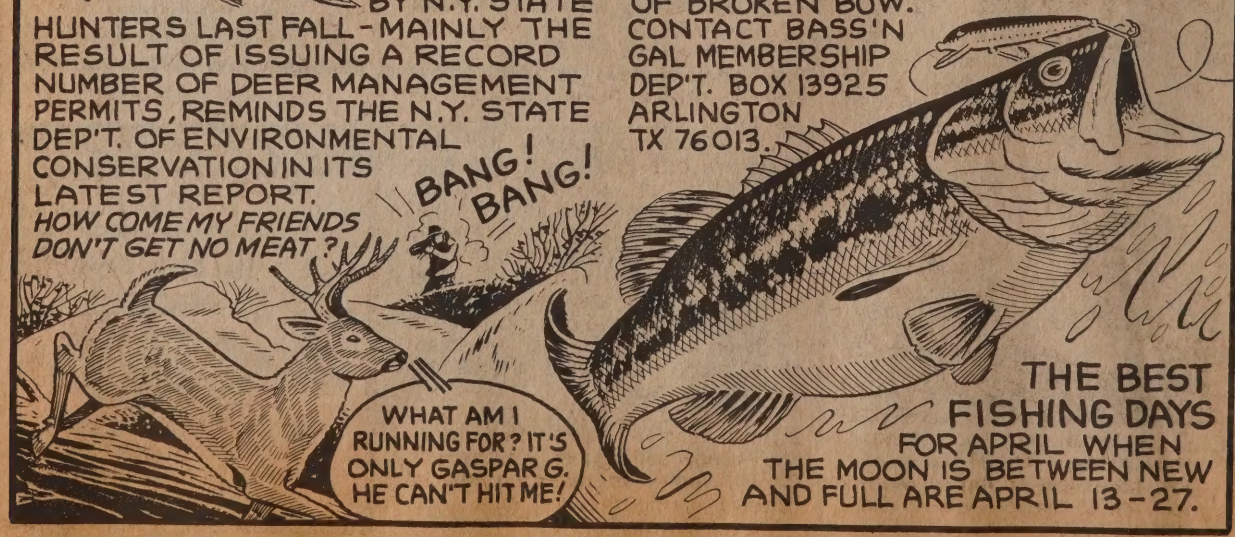
SKIN DIVERS' FLAGS ARE NOW UNDER NEW RULES. THAT RED FLAG WITH THE DIAGONAL WHITE STRIPE IS *NOT NOW OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED*. THE LEGAL SIGNAL FOR DIVE BOATS IS A *WHITE AND BLUE* FLAG VISIBLE ALL AROUND AND NOT LESS THAN ONE METER (3.3 FT.) IN HEIGHT - FOR BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND INLAND WATERS.

A 4½ LB. RAINBOW TROUT WON A CONNECTICUT STATE FISHING AWARD FOR GEORGE WARK WHO CAUGHT HIS FISH IN THE SALMON RIVER ON A "*WARK CUSTOM FLY*".

UNOFFICIAL OFFICIAL

A RECORD TAKE OF 185,455 DEER WAS MADE BY N.Y. STATE HUNTERS LAST FALL - MAINLY THE RESULT OF ISSUING A RECORD NUMBER OF DEER MANAGEMENT PERMITS, REMINDS THE N.Y. STATE DEP'T. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IN ITS LATEST REPORT. *HOW COME MY FRIENDS DON'T GET NO MEAT?*

THE SKYLINE BASS'N GALS' OKLAHOMA INVITATIONAL BASS TOURNAMENT WILL BE HELD APR. 14-15 OUT OF BROKEN BOW. CONTACT BASS'N GAL MEMBERSHIP DEP'T. BOX 13925 ARLINGTON TX 76013.



THE BEST FISHING DAYS FOR APRIL WHEN THE MOON IS BETWEEN NEW AND FULL ARE APRIL 13-27.

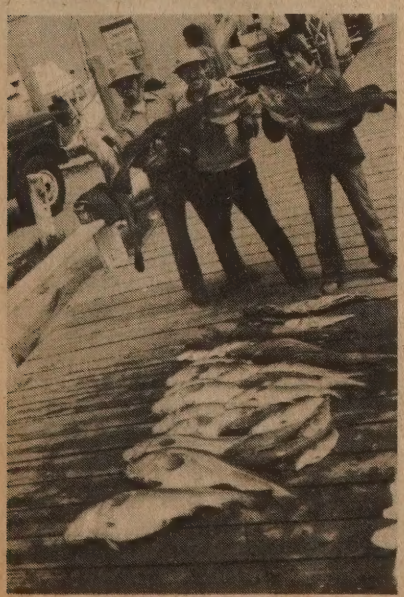
East End REPORT

with Bob Lee

Flounder fishing is excellent here on the East End—that is, if the darn weather will cooperate. Montauk's codfish population is still holding up very well, and some large blackfish have made their appearance. From all reports the flounder fishing is building everyday. Mussels, clam and sandworms are getting good size fish, mostly on moving tides. Some warm sunny days will help the flounder action this coming week. Spring codfishing is excellent at Montauk. Mixed in with the cod are pollock and some good size blackfish.

MONTAUK

Capt. Richie Rade of the **Montauk** based **Marlin Fleet** reports real good codfishing all week and Saturday as well. Cartwright is still the hot spot. Cod in the 8 to 10 pound range are being taken with an occasional 30 pounder mixed in. Blackfish have started to show. On fisherman had a 12 pounder on Saturday. Two fishermen named Chris and Vinny were high hook on Thursday with 64 cod. All the fish are taking clam baits.



Chris West and two friends show a few of the 36 cod to 43 lbs. taken last spring at Montauk on a charter aboard the "Blue Fin IV."

These anglers were pleased with the 185 lb. thresher shark that they took last summer aboard the Montauk charter boat "Ebb Tide."

SOUTH FORK

Capt. Artie Lach, captain of the **Sag Harbor** based open boat **Wilhelric** reports good flounder fishing when we have the weather. Frank Hoffman of Lindenhurst caught 21 flounder to 2 pounds on Saturday. The flounder action is taken place off of Conklin St., South Ferry, Cedar Beach and the bar behind Jessup's. Shinnecock Canal is still holding a large body of flounder. Mussel baits are best said Capt. Lach.

Chris Salb of the **Bayview Marine Fishing Station** in **Sag Harbor** tells us that the fishing is on and off, all due to the weather. During the week some fishermen are doing well in the Cove. Joe Ambrose and son Peter of Sag Harbor caught a mess of flounders on Saturday. Most of the action took place at the top of the tide using mussel baits. Smith Cove and Gibsons have been showing good concentrations of flounder all week. Chris said to remind fishermen that Bayview's 6th Annual Flounder Derby will take place this Saturday the 9th. Anglers have to sign up at **Bayview Marine Fishing Staion, Sag Harbor**.

Thom Speck of **Speck's Bait and Tackle** reports that flounder fishing has picked up at Cherry Harbor. Again fishermen are having limited success due to the wind and rainy weather. Heady Creek is still producing some action, Thom said it is hit and miss in this area. Noyac Creek and Mill Creek have some flurries of flounder activity. Mussel and clam chum along with sand worms are turning the trick.

Capt. Fred Wedley's charter boat **Seamist** formerly sailing from Moriches is now sailing from **Shinnecock**. Capt. Wedley is featuring special rates for spring mackerel trips.

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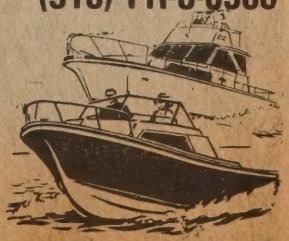

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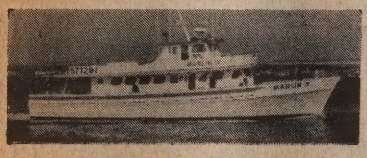

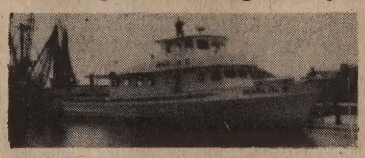

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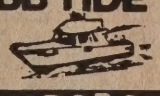

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Louie and Richie with part of a catch of 65 cod taken at Montauk aboard the charter boat "Vivienne."

Bays reports not much action due to the weather. The fishermen who manage to get out find the action very spotty. Sue and Steve Yed had 10 fat flounder on Saturday fishing the basket area. Bill Hichak and Mickey O'Brien of Yonkers had 69 flounder on Friday fishing at Heady Creek. Bill returned Saturday with his father and caught 65 more flounder at the same area. Some yellowtails are mixed in. Mussel chum and sandworms are the best baits.

South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

Saturday was a busy on the fishing front in these parts with the weather and the fish both cooperating for most flatfish fans. Moriches Bay flounder fishing appears to have finally settled into a groove while in Great South Bay, many fine scores were made by private boatmen in a number of areas.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

Mike Houlis and Keith Wright enjoyed a banner day with **Moriches Bay** flatfish on Saturday. Leaving from **Silly Lilly Fishing Station**, the duo worked north of buoy 42 on the morning's flood tide and put away 104 big flounder between 1 and 2 pounds. Gary Grunseich of the station who reported this catch also told of Joe Etrasco and Chantal Leduc who took

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Bill Schwanewede, a summer resident of Montauk, took this 165 lb. blue marlin while vacationing in Acapulco this winter. Subscriber photo.

53 big flatties on afternoon ebb from the same area. Heavy mussel chum has been the key to the better scores.

According to Jeff Frey of **Seatuck Cove Fishing Station**, most boats return to the dock with 2 to 3 dozen nice flounder from the buoy 41-42 area. On Saturday, John Stellingwerf and friends Ted, Bob and Rio had 6 big blue claws along with 41 flounder northeast of buoy 41.

Bob and Rich Hare, along with June Rusch, showed Bob Mignerey of **Hi-Way Fishing Station** a catch of 105 flounder in the ¾ to 1½ pound range which they took on Saturday in the buoy 41-42 area. Most other boats returned with 30 to 40 fish catches according to Bob. Again, heavy mussel chum seems to be the key to the bigger scores.

The **Moriches Bay** open boat, **Leo D**, skippered by Capt. Chip Contegni, reported fine flounder fishing this week with lots of big flatties mixing in. On Thursday, Eli of Brooklyn was hi-hook with 32 flatties, 13 of which were pushing the 2 pound mark. Pool fish each day has been in the 2-2½ pound range.

Back in action at **L & M Marine**, Jim Green told of a group from the Triple F Fishing Club which fished from 7 boats on Saturday. In an area north of buoy 42, they managed to average 50 fish per boat with one boat clicking with a 73 fish score. Nearly all of the fish being taken are a pound and up according to Jim and heavy mussel and corn chum is important.

Fishing out of Skidmore's Fishing Station on Thursday, Keith and Joe Komarek, Cliff Rigana and Sal Satmoasso clicked with 56 flatties northeast of 42. In the same are on Saturday, Mark Elf and Anthony Stanzione needed only 2 hours to put away 48 fish to 2 pounds according to Jim DeVita of Skidmores.

Ray Baker, Vincent Goldfinger, Cliff Lynch and Capt. Jerry McGrath with 20 big cod taken last spring on Montauk's CIA Grounds aboard the "Nostalgia II."

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Paul Graniello of **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue** was introduced to Connetquot State Park's trout population on Wednesday of last week. The fish proved hospitable enough with Paul and Tim Brownie taking and releasing over 25 brookies and rainbows, topped off by the shop owner's 16½" bow. Paul had good reports of 10-12" rainbows from Canaan where Bob Pracher found his opening day limit. On the salt water scene, Rich Monko and Obie worked mid-bay off of Sayville's Brown River on Saturday and were rewarded 104 flatties to 2½ pounds. The pair used sandworms and mussels and mussel chum.

From **J & R Sport Center** in **Oakdale**, Dave Canale said that lots of small trout were taken by youngsters from Bubble's Falls and Rattlesnake Creek this past week. Connetquot State Park has come alive but Dave said big fish reports are lacking. Most of the trout have been brookies in the 12-14 inch range. Flounder fishing was good late last week and Saturday over a wide expanse of bay bottom. A number of private boatmen reported good scores from areas such as Brown's River, Heckscher, Range Channel and Dickerson Channel.

Irene Cioffi of **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** in **East Islip** looked over a 50 fish catch of flatties made by the Rommeney family of East Islip on Saturday. Many of the fish, which were taken off of Heckscher, were between 1 and 1¾ pounds. Fishing was done with sandworms and mussel chum.

Dr. Braunstein and his son, both of Bay Shore, used mussels and worms to take 35 flounder on Wednesday and 45 more on Saturday in the Dickerson Channel area. Carl Miller of **Smokey's**

Gordon Nelson shows the 2 lb. flattie he checked in at Montauk Marine Basin last season.

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FREE TACKLE, CLAMS & RODS

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JIB VII VI FLOUNDER SAILING DAILY 7A.M. 8A.M.

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CAPT. CARL (516) 226-3042

Mike Houlis and Keith Wright with their catch of 104 flounder made last week at buoy 42 in Moriches Bay. Fishing was done out of Silly Lily Fishing Station in East Moriches.

Bait and Tackle in **Bay Shore**, who reported the "good doctor's" results, had another fine catch to report from the same area. Bay Shore Tuna Club memebers Neil Stepano, Joe Moriera and John Boucher used clams and worms to put away 96 flatties up to 1.9 pounds. Carl remided too, that a few flounder are being taken from the Bay Shore Marina docks on worms. Still plenty of white perch in the Connetquot as recently as Saturday when one customer had over 50 of the scrappers.

Over at **Captree**, flounder fishing remains pretty good most days and a pick on others. **Capt. Ben Litwin** of the open boat of the same name said that catches of 8-10 flounder are about average most days. The fish are well distributed throughout the bay and quite afew nice size fish are still being taken though this past week saw more smaller fish mixing in.

Capt. Carl Passero of the **Jib VI** said that Thursday, Friday and Saturday produced decent catches of mixed size flatties though the pool fish is often in the 2 pound range. Fish are spread over a wide area with Bay Shore, Sailors Haven, Clam Pond and Atlantique all producing fish this past week.

The **Captree** charter boat, **Yankee III**, ran another one of its reservation only cod trips on Saturday. Capt. Bob Patafio said that most fares went home happy though two likely wore bigger smiles than most. Harold Wotosiewicz was hi-hook with 9 cod while Lorrie Mangan copped the pool with an eighteen pounder. Most of the fish taken during the day were in the 10-12 pound class. The boat's final cod trip is slated for this Saturday. See their ad for details.

Ski Kochanski of **Augie's Bait and Tackle** in **Babylon** had a number of fine flattie scores to relate from this

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DAY OR NITE TRIPS
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CAPT. LEO	(516) 475-0604
DIXIE	(516) 541-4538
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SHEARWATER	(516) 669-0487
YANKEE III	(516) 798-4551
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Capt. Dennis Frederick
(Formerly of the "Flying Dutchmen")
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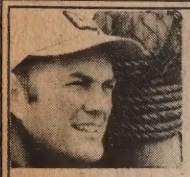
Erica Weppler, daughter of LIF subscriber Richard Weppler, has yet to catch her first fish, but she is working on it!



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past week and Saturday. Gaspar Garraputo and Al Kaich worked north of Snakehill Channel on Thursday aboard the Babylon Tuna Club boat Karen E and finished up the day with 65 nice flounder. Another club boat, the E Z Ed, crewed by Ed and Barbara Walsh, returned on Saturday from the Sore Thumb area with 87 fish to 1¾ pounds.

Artie Orlandi worked the buoy 2 area off of East Islip for a short time, also on Saturday and had 30 nice fish. Back to Friday, Tim Conley and Warren Kelly put 58 flounder into the fish box of their Six Pack while Larry and Ellie Christie of the Chris T worked just off the sewer plant for 26 nice fish to 1¾ pounds.

Capt. Jack Stoddard of the **Babylon** open boat **Luci III** found good action to west at Four Corners and the Amity Cut on Friday. Saturday's fishing done at the Lindenhurst Cut, was down from Friday's fishing but still a pretty fair pick according to the skipper. Hi-hook on Friday was George Newbauer with 38 flatties.

Mike Andreani of **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** looked over a catch of 70 flatties made on Saturday in Dickerson Channel by Ed and Sal Lecci. They took the fish on worms and skimmer clams and used mussel chum. Mike did weigh a 2¼ pound flattie for an angler who left before Mike could get his name. He did know that the big fish was taken locally off of Lindenhurst. Jeff Butta culled 4 trout in the 10" range from Southard's Pond in Babylon and had a dozen yellow perch as well on Saturday.

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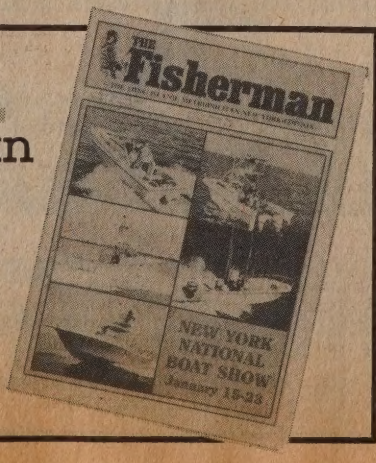

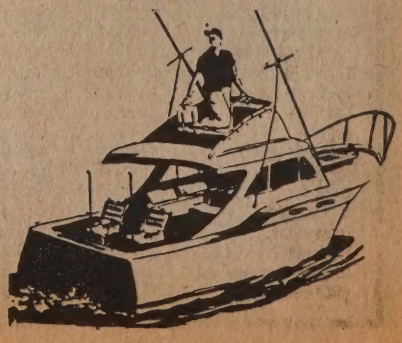

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . —0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	3:05	3:40	4:15	4:50	3:55	4:35	5:05	5:45	7:40	8:10	6:40	7:15	3:15	3:45	4/7
FRI.	4:05	4:40	5:10	5:40	4:50	5:30	5:55	6:30	8:30	8:55	7:35	8:00	4:05	4:35	4/8
SAT.	5:00	5:30	5:55	6:20	5:45	6:15	6:40	7:05	9:10	9:30	8:25	8:45	4:55	5:20	4/9
SUN.	5:50	6:10	6:35	6:55	6:30	6:55	7:20	7:40	9:45	9:55	9:05	9:25	5:40	6:00	4/10
MON.	6:30	6:45	7:15	7:35	7:05	7:25	7:55	8:15	10:05	10:10	9:45	10:05	6:20	6:40	4/11
TUES.	7:05	7:25	7:55	8:10	7:45	8:00	8:35	8:55	10:25	10:35	10:25	10:40	7:00	7:20	4/12
WED.	7:45	8:00	8:30	8:45	8:20	8:35	9:15	9:25	11:00	11:10	11:05	11:20	7:45	8:00	4/13
THURS.	8:25	8:40	9:10	9:20	8:55	9:10	9:55	10:05	11:35	11:50	11:45	—	8:20	8:40	4/14

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehobeth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	—0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	—0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point, north side	—1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	—0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	—1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 4/7	5:35	6:32
FRI. 4/8	5:33	6:33
SAT. 4/9	5:31	6:34
SUN. 4/10	5:29	6:35
MON. 4/11	5:28	6:36
TUE. 4/12	5:26	6:37
WED. 4/13	5:25	6:38

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 4/7	3:01AM	12:46PM
FRI. 4/8	3:36AM	1:46PM
SAT. 4/9	4:05AM	2:46PM
SUN. 4/10	4:34AM	3:48PM
MON. 4/11	5:00AM	4:51PM
TUE. 4/12	5:25AM	5:55PM
WED. 4/13	5:51AM	7:01PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
4/13	4/20	4/27	4/5

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	12:30	6:40	12:50	7:00
Fri.	1:15	7:20	1:30	7:45
Sat.	2:00	8:05	2:15	8:25
Sun.	2:40	8:45	2:55	9:05
Mon.	3:20	9:25	3:35	9:45
Tues.	4:00	10:05	4:15	10:25
Wed.	4:40	10:45	4:55	11:10
Thurs.	5:25	11:35	5:45	—

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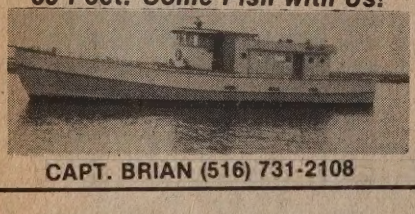

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West End REPORT

with Stu Miller

The flounder catches in this area have finally taken hold, mainly at the beginning of this past week and abated towards the end of the week due to the offshore storms, local rain and wind and the infusions of cold water that came into the bays on the abnormally high tides at the end of the week. Fish that have been caught have been mainly good sized and meaty though the numbers are not yet astounding for all venturing forth.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

In speaking to Captain Brian of the **Chinco III** out of Seaford we find that Saturday's morning trip saw nice size flatties taken, but no quantities. Fares fished the Wantagh, Bellmore and Merrick back areas. On the afternnon trip, the boat ran east and fished Massapequa Cove and Fort Neck Point taking more in quantity at a sacrifice in size. Mussels have been working best, as has outgoing water.

The rental skiffs out of **Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station** did well Saturday. Dean Riddle and Greg Mace, both 10-years old fishing with Bill Hines, hoisted 33 flounder out of Massapequa Cove Saturday. Fish ran 3/4 to 2¼ lbs. with the ebb tide best. Mussels, worms and corn chum were the tempters. Wednesday saw Massapequa Cove yield 52 flounder to regular Art Richter.

Fishing out of **Pop's Fishing Station** Saturday customers saw a definite pick up in the flounder catches as evidenced by 150 flounder averaging 1½ lb. each for Frank Gulin, Joe Camerson and Bill Level. Largest fish hit 3 lb. 5 oz. on the station's scale and all these jumbos were caught at Squaw Island. Mussels work best along with heavy mussel chumming. They fished all of incoming and part of the ebb as well. Jim and John Beierle, Mike Krapp and Sal Binzini also on Saturday had 15 big flat flounder at Squaw on worms. The water has evidently warmed up to the point where the catches are becoming steady and good. The station still has killies for freshwater anglers.

Wanser's Bait and Tackle also identified Squaw Island as the hottest area this past week on worms and heavy chumming. For shore-bound anglers Seamen's Neck Park and the Jones Beach Piers produced well.

Over in Merrick, Jimmy at **Nick's Fishng Station** agreed that flounder

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fishing has definitely started with the green house on Broad Creek being a hotspot. One rental skiff picked up 40 flounder in Rowboat Alley Saturday. Fish are hitting worms, mussel and clam baits equally well and fish are running 1 to 1¾ lbs.

Moving into Freeport, we learn that aboard the **Starstream II** Saturday on one of the special offshore cod and pollock wreck trips, Dave Fuller, Rochester, took the pool with a 52 lb. lunker cod, while Paul Lapinski of New Hyde Park bagged a 29 lb. pollock. Bob Nagy of Brooklyn was happy with a 42 lb. cod and we don't blame him. Several wrecks were fished during the day. Friday's regular inshore codfishing trip was good with several fares scoring in the 10-15 fish category. Cod averaged 6-15 lbs. and Artie Rosenberg of Freeport took the pool with a 34 lb. 8 oz. cod. Please note that the special offshore trips are now Tuesdays and Thursdays, Saturdays having been eliminated. Regular trips sail all other days. See ad for details.

A call from Lou Stalker of **Lou's Fishing Station** asked us to let you know that Lou is now open for the season, ready to serve again for '83.

It was Squaw Island for the **Capt. Al** Wednesday and Thursday and fishing was red hot those two days. Good crowds caught plenty of fish and almost all keepers. Sporadically, Jones Inlet has been good also. Al did say that things faded towards the end of the week as the rainy and windy weather put the fish off their feed. Fish have been bigger at Squaw this year as always and Saturday saw a triple-header taken. On Thursday some fares had fish in the 30s and 40s numberwise. Al says there are fish on every drop that are running 1/2 to 2 lbs. Mussels are working best in the back, while clam and worm are working best in the inlet.

Tuesday aboard the **Miss Freeport II** a pool fish of 2¼ lbs. was boated by Linda Reidlinger of Richmond Hill. On Wednesday Freeport angler Eugene Pierce bagged up with 20 flounder including a 2 lb. pool winner. On Good Friday Paul Eisenhardt and Joe Torrier of Staten Island joined forces to capture a 2½ lb. pool winner, while on Saturday, Jim Lawrence of Oceanside had a 2¼ lb. pool fish. Things took a bit of a downturn on the weekend numberswise due to cold water pushed in by the extremely high tides.

Hudson Point Fishing Station told us about the Hudson Angler/Atlantis Angler Flounder Tournament which was held Saturday with 53 anglers competing. Hudson Anglers emerged victorious with their three heaviest fish weighing 5 lbs. 11 oz. total. Their adversaries weighed in at 4 lbs. 14 oz. Bob Heal, Artie Rosenberg, Len Oppenheimer, Bill Singer, Howie Steinberg caught all of these heavies. Best areas were Middle Bay, the flats of the Cinder Creek, Merrick Bay and Swift Creek. Incoming tide was best on mussels, worms and plenty of

chum. Ronnie also told of plenty of cod on both inshore and offshore wrecks on clam.

The charter boat **Captain Gary** called to advise that his April flounder dates are down to only two still open and that calls should be made rapidly if you want one of these dates.

Freeport Boatmen's Association passed on the word that aboard the **Super Spray II** there was very good flounder action on Saturday's morning trip with good numbers and good sizes also in evidence. Fish averaged 1¼ lbs. and the pool fish hit 2¼ lbs. Action was picky on the afternoon trip as the latest storm approached.

Flounder catches were fair to good aboard the **Capt. Lou III and IV** this past week. On the full day boat Monday high hook was 25 fish, while on Thursday's trip 24 was enough to win high hook honors for Herb Schwarz. The half day boat had high hooks in the teens on all trips they sailed. Thursday morning's trip saw Tom Aesara of Roslyn take 16 flatties. Fish are running 3/4 to 1½ lbs. Captain Mike says the floundering is picking up as warmer water moves in. Worm-mussel combos have been working best. All tickets are sold for the **Capt. Lou IV** for Saturday's morning trip.

A wee bit to the south in Point Lookout, Captain Bill Lindroth of the **Capt. Bill** advised that his fares have been picking away on all trips with pool fish running 2½ to 3 lbs. and high hooks 15 to 18 per trip. On Saturday morning 10-year-old Denny Weinstein had 18 flounder, while Dad Howie had 12. No one had fewer than 10 fish on that trip said Bill. Best catches were off Lido. Roosevelt Rogers had 16 flatties Friday. The Inlet has been very good at the change of tide. Sunday was picky due to the shot of cold water that came in Saturday night, but the fish are definitely still there. The bigger fish seem to be caught by the better anglers and these are lip-hooked.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning's trips were tough aboard the **Miss Point Lookout** according to Captain Ron, what with the wind and cold. However, Wednesday's afternoon trip saw nicer weather moving in and so the fishing turned very good. Working Garrett's Lead, Reynolds Channel and Jones Inlet catches averaged 8-20 flounder a man. High hook honors went to Sid Carrmann of Staten Island with 20 flounder. Ten-year-old Matthew French had 10 fish. Thursday's morning trip was good, with the change of tide best to the tune of 12-16 flounder a man. The afternoon trip was fair with a nice catch of flounder for Weblo Den 3, Pack 305 of Carl Place doing their thing. Friday's morning trip saw Nick Leskov of Green Point with a 2 lb. pool winner. Both morning and afternoon trips saw 18 as the magic high hook number. Doug Young of Syosset on the afternoon trip took the pool with a 2 lb. 4 oz. flounder. Saturday morning was very good with the boat taking

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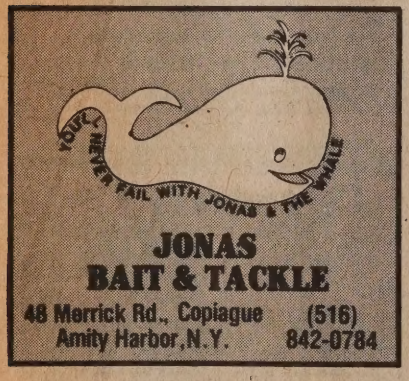

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over 250 fish. In the afternoon, Dave Dorman of Oceanside bagged a 2 lb. 7 oz. pool winner. Mike Chinninski and Bob Catorsca had 18 flounder on the afternoon trip. Worms, mussels and red clams are all working, with the changes of tide best.

Al at **Reynold's Reef Fishing Station** told us about lots of flounder being caught in Reynolds Channel on worm and mussel bait along the bulkheads, particularly on the southeast side of the AB bridge. The area off the firehouse and the waters around the Magnolia Blvd. pier have also been particularly good, with outgoing tide best on bloodworms and mussels.

The Island Park open boat **Commodore** experienced a good showing of fish Thursday, Friday and Saturday and the skipper feels that with this action the season has now broken open. Fish ran 3/4 to 2½ lbs. Catches averaged 15 a man and high hooks were in the low 30s. Thirty-five flounder was the score for Tom Rupp on Saturday, while Gary Stephenson had 15 flounder including a 2½ lb. pool winner Saturday. On Friday's trip Bill Strobel filled a bucket with 28 flounder including a 2¼ lbs. pool fish. Mussels, clams and worms all worked and Clem noted that the little yellow artificial "grubs" appear to be very effective attractors.

Charlie at **Beckmann's Tackle** in Lynbrook noted a sharp pickup in flounder activity over the weekend with chumming an extremely important factor. The mouth of Jones was very good as were the docks at the Coast Guard Station at Short Beach. Duck Point also came alive as did Hog Channel, along with Schaefer and Cinder Creeks. Fish were caught up to 1¼ lbs. on bloods, sands, mussel and clam, both tides.

Over in Long Beach, the word from **Long Beach Sports Marina** is that on Saturday eight skiffs all returned at the end of the day with good numbers of good size flounder from various Reynolds Channel locations. Rich McCormick and Party worked buoy 3 for a total of 38 flatties all on mussel and clam chum. Working Cement Block, 30 was the score for Roger Hall on a flooding tide and plenty of mussel chum.

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We learned from **Skippy's Bait and Tackle** in East Rockaway that the best catches this week and weekend have been on the Flats. It has been good on the shoals said Skippy and mussel baits are working best. The Heller family of South Hempstead loaded up with 35 big flounder to 2½ lbs. fishing off Cement Block. The fish are up on the flats feeding on clam necks. Both incoming and outgoing tides are producing, with the fish favoring higher water on the flats. They are feeding and fattening now.

Over in Jamaica Bay Lou of **Bayhead Marina** advised that John White had 32 flounder from 1 to 1½ lbs. fishing behind Path Mark on Rockaway Blvd. John was fishing from the bank using bloodworms Sunday on outgoing water.

To the west in Sheepshead Bay, Captain Walt Weigand of the **Flamingo III** told of fair to good flounder catches on Saturday's trip with fares picking away all day, all nice keepers. Walt said most fares had catches in the 20s with fish 3/4 to 1½ lbs. Catches were on both tides on mussel and worm. The water has warmed slightly and seems to have settled down.

Blackfish specialist Captain Tom of the **Pilot II** says that although the floundering has been very good, he is now switching to blackfish, sailing 6AM daily. Tom will have green crabs on the boat.

Over the bridge in Staten Island we learn from Kevin at **Santo's Sport Shop** that flounder, flounder, flounder is the name of the game right now. Best areas have been Annandale, Hougenout, and Great Kills for fish 1½ to 2 lbs. average. Sand worms have been working best on both tides. Boat fishermen have been doing very well using plenty of chum. Some short bass have also been caught from the beaches and, of course, returned to the water.

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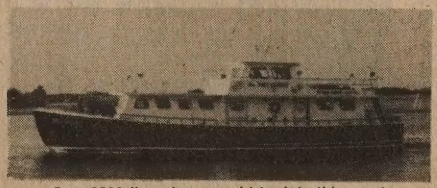
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North Shore REPORT
with Marty Garrell

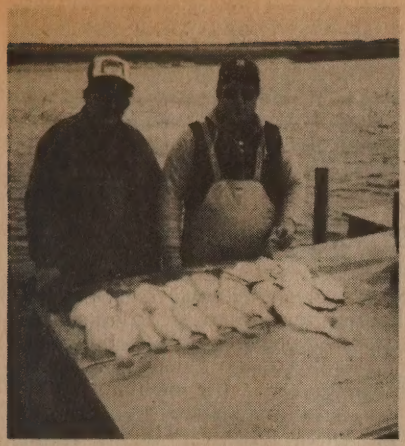
Flounder action is uniformly good wherever anglers can reach the fish. Last Thursday and Saturday seemed to be exceptional days from one end of the Island to the other. With Sound water temperatures now approaching the mid-40s, the larger fish are moving out of the harbor areas and deep water zones (20' or more) are beginning to produce.

WESTERN SOUND

During the fine weather on Saturday, John Palmieri at **John's Gun & Tackle** in New Rochelle reported fine fishing off the local shore lines. Sands Point and Prospect Point on the other side of the Sound were also producing for those who fished worms and chummed with mussels. Palmieri feels that chum definitely increases flounder catches in the area by at least 50 percent.

Dave Watt at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** weighed a 1 lb. 9 oz. flattie taken by Lee Sorensen at Garvey's, the biggest of the Sorensen's catch on March 31. Roslyn Bridge, Tappan Beach, Pryble Pier, and Dosoris Pond were also producing. The best of the fishing seemed to be on the last part of incoming water. The first bass catch of the season was taken on sandworms and bucktails in shallow water in the Little Neck area. Among

Ralph, Pedro, Matt and Gloria did a fine job on the flatties during last week's trip aboard Capt. Joe Ferrara's City Island open boat, "Ebb Tide III." Fishing was done in Huntington Harbor.



Larry Schoeberl and Arthur Kreiss put away 25 flounder to 2½ lbs. off of Orient State Park. They used mussels and worms after leaving from Port of Egypt Fishing Station in New Suffolk.

the schoolies was a genuine 15 lb. striper.

Jack's Bait & Tackle on City Island had two boats out on Saturday and both reported back to the station with 10 nice flounder apiece. Good fishing can be found close to the Station in the Orchard Beach area.

Party boats enjoyed good fishing throughout the week in the Bayville area in roughly 20-30' of water. Easter Sunday was, of course, a holiday for everyone, thanks to the foul weather. Pete Pearson of the **Klondike VIII** reported a slight slowdown in the fabulous action on Saturday on slack water and took a temperature reading of 43.2 F. in the Bayville hotspots. Joe Ferrara of the **Ebb Tide III** called to say that high hooks were higher on days when fares were fewer, but that nevertheless, 35-50 fish was the norm for those who persevered. Dom Cerbone of the **Apache** said that most fisherpersons had more fish than they could carry, and that anglers tended to pick 20-25 really good fish per rod as keepers. The sizes of fish reported by everybody were anywhere from 3/4 to 1 pound with an occasional larger pool winner to 1½ lbs. Joe Fink of the **Lady Lil III** told us that Marilyn Jensen, Bob Albers, and John Castaldo teamed up on Friday, despite the strong winds, for a catch of 210 flatties. Between Matinecock and Lloyds, this seems to be one drop fishing for most of the skippers with easy filling of those 5 gallon buckets.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

Phil at **Four Winds** in Huntington pulled 20 flounder in 2 hours in Northport Harbor and figures that half the fish there are throwbacks under 3/4 lbs. Roger had a couple

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Ronnie's in Huntington reported that Billy Novotny brought in the first tagged fish of the year, and that the fish off the docks are getting smaller now. High tide produces best, but there are no truly solid reports from the Sound yet.

Bowman's in Northport figures that the centers for local action are Northport Bay, Little Neck Point, and the area in front of Duck Island. Young anglers working ¼ oz. whiptails and white bucktails were doing nicely at the power plant on small bass and white perch.

The **Caraftis Fishing Station** in Port Jeff is now set up for rentals. Angelo Caraftis reported catches of roughly 100 fish, mostly in the 1/2 to 3/4 lb. class, around the Old Bridge in Setauket. Sound action is expected to open up around the second week of the month.

Ralph Davenport at **Ralph's** in Mount Sinai now has a few boats in the water and worms and mussels as bait. Clams will be in next week. Fishing is reasonable in the harbor, but nobody has been outside yet.

NORTH FORK

Ed Kopack at **Warren's** in Aquebogue felt that the strongest showing of flounder in the western Bay was off Indian Island with the Can off Buoy 9 and Red Cedar also reasonable.

The area west of Robins Island is now producing steadily for **Capt. Marty's** customers. Large fish are the norm there; Dom and Louis DeRafieri had a catch of 45, Robert Rossomagno reported with a catch of 24, and Bill Muller worked on 10 of the Peconic's largest fish between 2 and 2½ lbs. Mussels are essential as bait and

Benny La Rosa and Robert Rossomango took 13 big flounder up to 2½ lbs. at Nassau Point on mussels and worms. The pair fished out of Capt. Marty's Fishing Station in New Suffolk.

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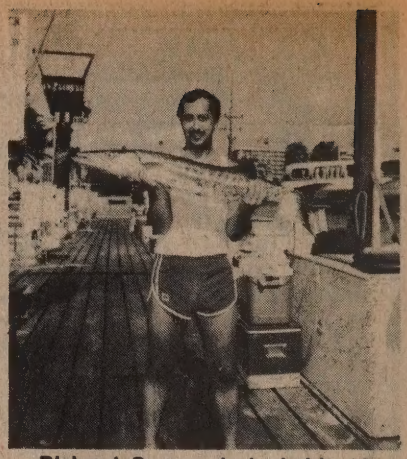

Richard Guerra decked this 18 lb. barracuda while vacationing in Miami Beach earlier this year.

chum for these big flatties with incoming water usually best.

The **Port of Egypt** saw an outstanding catch off buoy 16 on Saturday with 100 flatties to 1½ lbs., and Art White was busy all week looking at nice catches from every point on the compass. Private boats off Long Beach, near Gull Pond, and in Dering Harbor all did well. Most of the flatties were in the 1-1½ lb. range.

The **Mattituck Inlet Fishing Station** on the Sound is now open, but no solid reports were available on Easter Sunday. All the open boats from Greenport but one, the **Brand X**, are now sailing. Anna Mae Rainis called to say that the **Blue Albatross** had an outstanding start for her season in the Bay off Conklin's. Captain John accounted for some 300 fish on Friday, despite the raging northeast winds, and had some 200 fish on Saturday. Pool flattie on Friday was the best of the Long Island season so far, a 2 lb. 14 oz. fish taken by Richard Dovner. Saturday's pool was taken by Ginny Quinn's 1½ lb. flounder. The largest fish of the week each week will now qualify for a free trip. The Blue Albatross will be sailing as an open boat through April 15, when weekend charters begin.

Richie Jensen enjoyed an excellent Friday with the **Nancy Ann** and a 10 person party. They explored all local areas from the Greenport jetty down to Cedar Beach and pulled a lot of decent fish all day long. The final tally was 150 flatties in the 3/4 to 1¼ lb. range.

The Greenport open boat **Peconic Star** managed to put together a decent catch of flatties for his fares on Friday and Saturday. Fishing is being done at Conklin Pt., Dering Harbor, and Orient Harbor. John Gutman of Babylon was high hook on Friday with 19 flatties.

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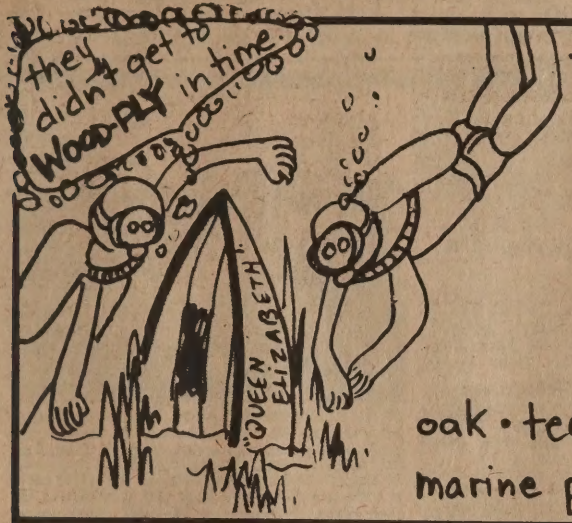

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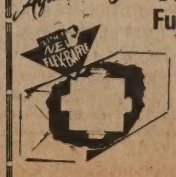

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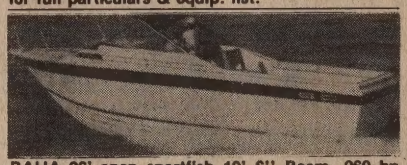

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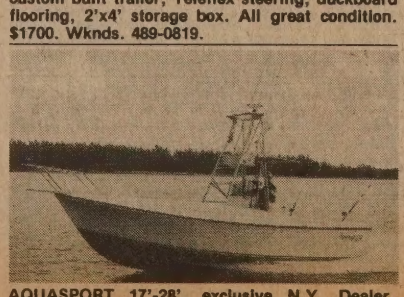

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Bimini top 1980 84" wide, $175; OMC binacle mount S/L control w/tilt trim button, $75, Perko 15' outrigger poles, $30. Days: 516-543-7222. Eves: 516-724-8710.

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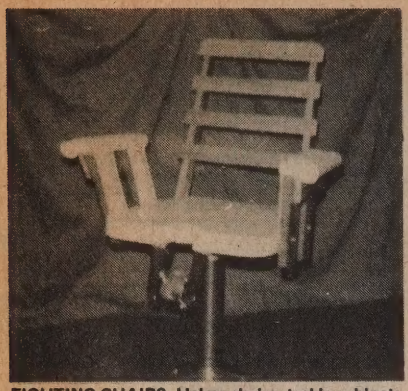

FIGHTING CHAIRS, Helms chairs; tackle cabinets & more. A variety of models. Write for a free brochure. CUSTOM WOOD PRODUCTS, Box 456, Kings Park, NY 11754.

BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT: Single & Tandem axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & Permanent hitches for Sale or Rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-06 Bway, Woodside, NY. 212-426-7039.

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1¼"x76" bronze shaft - $100; 1-1/8"x57" bronze shaft - $75; 17"x14"x1¼" rh prop - $40; 13"x13"x1-1/8" rh prop - $30. Eves. 212-229-6782.

3 Watt, 78 Ch. Marine hand-held VHF radio w/heavy duty NICAD batt., AC wall charger & Flex antenna. While they last - $299. SEAWAY COMMUNICATIONS, Lindenhurst. 516-957-7171.

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Radar, Loran, autopilots, VHF, SSB, Fish recorders. Sales & service most major brands. Custom installations. MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS, Inc., 377 Woodcleft Ave., Freport, NY. 516-623-4421.

100% Stainless steel marine products—rails, towers, ladders, brackets, hinges, cleats, rod holders, shafts, struts, chocks, fasteners, pulpit. Custom & standard products avail. SEABRITE STAINLESS SALES CO., 63 Morris Avenue and Hwy. 35, Neptune City, NJ 07753. 201-988-8818. Send $2.25 for complete catalog.

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Two Daiwa 6' medium saltwater spinning rods. Never used. Mint cond. $34. 516-588-6306.

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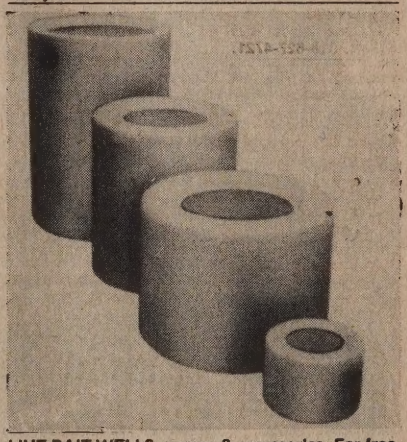

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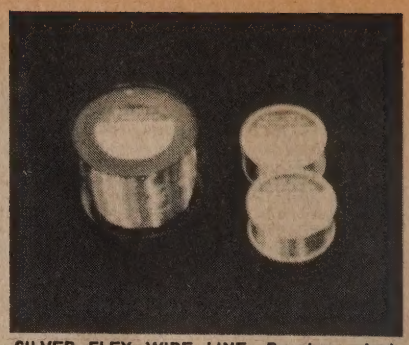

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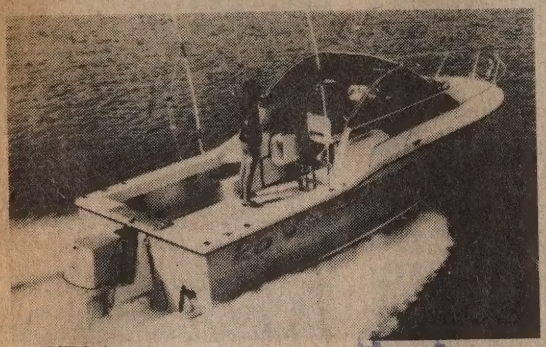

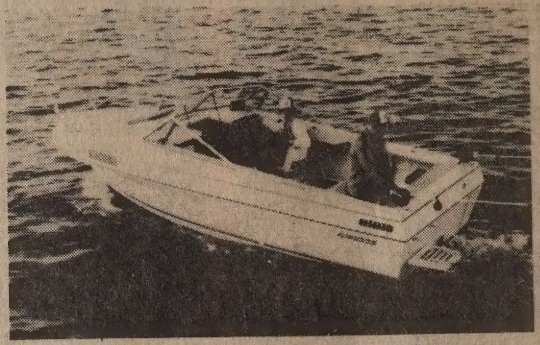

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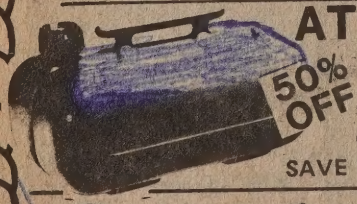

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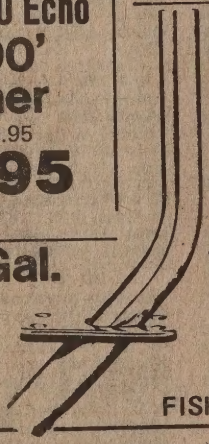

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